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 WEEKEND, December 21-23, 2012
 News worth sharing.



'TIS THE SEASON

Serena Sandford gets a lift during a rehearsal for the Royal Winnipeg Ballet's *The Nutcracker*, which opened last night. This year's performances will get a touch of hockey and law and order as Jets player Olli Jokinen and new Winnipeg police Chief Devon Clunis will perform walk-on roles during *The Nutcracker*'s party scene. Jokinen is scheduled for the Dec. 22 show, while Chief Clunis will participate on Dec. 29. Tickets for the show, which runs until Dec. 30, start at \$25 for children, \$29 for adults, and can be purchased through the RWB by calling 204-956-2792 or online at rwb.org. BERNICE PONTANILLA/METRO

Charities see a dip in donations

In need of a boost.
 Several charities say they won't meet targets this year

MEG CRANE
winnipeg@metronews.ca

Manitobans may be known as the most charitable in the country, but several Winnipeg charities say they're struggling this year.

Winnipeg Harvest has received fewer donations than they did last year, said volunteer Samantha Gladue.

Many "girl toys" and hygiene products, such as lotions and soaps, have been donated, but there are many food items they are in need of, said Gladue.

Winnipeg Harvest has a most-wanted list, which can be found on their website.

At a glance

- Winnipeg Harvest feeds more than 54,000 Manitobans a month.
- The United Way raised \$19.7 million in 2011 in support of 104 agencies.
- The Christmas Cheer Board helps feed more than 50,000 people during the holidays.
- Siloam Mission has served almost 400,000 meals since they opened.

The United Way set a goal to raise more than \$20 million this year, according to Douglas Finkbeiner, the United Way 2012 campaign chair.

"We're going to be about \$300,000 short," he estimated.

The goal is \$700,000 over last year's, said Finkbeiner, so likely more money will be brought in this year. However, the money is needed to fund important community projects, he added.

The Christmas Cheer Board is coming up short this year as well. "We're behind, but we're not desperate," said Linda Grayston, a volunteer with the Board. They are asking for everyone who gave last year to help them out again.

Siloam Mission is in the same position.

Each year's budget assumes Siloam Mission will get the same amount of money as the previous year, said director of development Judy Richichi. Currently, donations are down five per cent from last year.

"We don't have a budget that has any extras, any frills," said Richichi. "We are a little bit concerned."

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MP Pat Martin swears off Twitter after outburst



NDP MP Pat Martin rises to question the government during question period in the House of Commons.

ADRIAN WYLD/THE CANADIAN PRESS FILE

New Democrat MP. Politician calls Conservatives 'rat-faced whores'

Firebrand New Democrat MP Pat Martin is apologizing for another abusive Twitter outburst — and swearing off the microblogging service for good.

Martin's Twitter account was abruptly shut down Thursday after an abusive series of tweets prompted, apparently, by the Conservative government's failure to invite him to an announcement in his Winnipeg Centre riding.

"I apologize for my regrettable and inappropriate language," Martin tweeted as word of the angry tirade continued to circulate online.

"It seems some people shouldn't tweet so with this, I sign off."

Indeed, NDP spokesman Karl Belanger quickly confirmed Martin's decision.

"These comments were simply inappropriate and un-

acceptable," Belanger said in a statement. "Mr. Martin agrees and we understand that he has decided to stop using his Twitter account."

Following his last tweet, clicking on Martin's Twitter name — @PatMartinMP — yielded only an "internal server error."

Wednesday night's tweets were laced with abusive language and included some particularly scathing and personal insults aimed at Public Safety Minister Vic Toews and the Conservative party.

Among other things, Martin described the Conservatives as "truly bad people" who won last year's federal election using "American-style dirty tricks." At one point, he called them "rat-faced whores."

It wasn't the first time Martin had raised eyebrows on Parliament Hill and across Canada with Twitter-based vitriol.

In November 2011, he went on a similar, profanity-laced tirade when the government used procedural tools to shut down debate on a budget bill.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

1 NEWS

Mayor's office to improve FIPPA numbers

Manitoba's ombudsman applauded the City of Winnipeg for improving how it handles freedom of information requests, however, the same couldn't be said about the mayor's office.

"All departments satisfactorily implemented the Ombudsman's recommendations except for the Mayor's Office, which failed to implement the recommendations relating to time requirements and adequacy of the contents of the FIPPA (Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act) files," states the report released on Wednesday.

Ombudsman Mel Holley said since the City was audited in 2011.

The city improved its overall performance to 88 per cent in terms of compliance rates from the 59 per cent it received in 2011 and implemented 21 recommendations.

However, the mayor's office received failing grades when it came to time requirements and contents of the FIPPA files.

A spokesperson for the mayor's office said they have been challenged by the increased volumes of FIPPA requests, in which 2011 saw an increase of 57 per cent over

The mayor's office

By the numbers:

- **2011.** Section 12 compliance, 50%; Time requirements, 75%; Contents of FIPPA file, 75%
- **2012.** Section 12 compliance, 86%; Time requirements, 29%; Contents of FIPPA file, 43%

2010, "and so far in 2012, we have seen an increase of 109 per cent over 2011 (to date)."

"This increased volume invariably puts strain on timelines while we work to ensure compliance, but we will continue to work to improve our turnaround time while dealing with our limited resources," said the spokesperson in an email.

Colin Craig, Prairie director of the Canadian Taxpayers Federation, who files about 60 freedom of information requests a year to various levels of government in Manitoba and Saskatchewan, said he has seen a marked improvement by the city over the past year.

Craig, however, said a re-

cent request for a city report on traffic at the cloverleaf on Portage Avenue, where a new fire paramedic station is being built, was refused and he's now lodged a complaint with the ombudsman.

"What do you mean it's confidential? It's a traffic report," said Craig. "If we can't get a traffic report, then what is freedom of information (legislation) for?"

A spokesperson for the City of Winnipeg said there wasn't anyone available to say how the city improved its FIPPA numbers.

BERNICE PONTANILLA/METRO

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High Five! Unless you want to spend next Christmas alone, here's a list of five things your significant other will not want to find under the tree this holiday season.

SHANE GIBSON
shane.gibson@metronews.ca



1 Scale

Even if your wife or girlfriend has asked for a scale this Christmas, don't do it. It's a test, and you do not want to find out what happens if you fall for it. Never ever, ever, ever get your significant other a scale for Christmas, ever.

5

Things not to buy your lover on Christmas

Tacky knick-knacks

This is an easy trap to fall into when you've run out of time to shop or if your lover seems to have everything. But if you're about to buy a mini bamboo garden with a "relaxing meditation stream" for your lover this year, stop, listen to the mini waterfall, and meditate on a better gift idea.



2 Salad Spinner

Sure, some kitchen gadgets are cool, and with Ikea now selling their Swedish wares in the city, it's easier than ever to find a gadget that's acceptable to pass along as a gift. But if you can't find anything more exciting than a salad spinner you're not trying hard enough.

Vacuum Cleaner

It doesn't matter how dusty your lover's floors are, how many dust bunnies live in the space under their couch, or how many bowling balls this particular model can pick up: vacuums as gifts will always suck.



Socks

This holiday classic is a standby for moms to buy their sons. So no matter how many holes your husband or boyfriend has in his socks, or how rancid his ratty collection smells, you don't have to worry about it — that's his mom's territory and you do not want to step on her toes.



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Guilty Pleasures 2. Divas bring girl power to Le Garage café

Oops, they're doing it again. Winnipeg divas Alexa Dirks and Marti Sarbit host Guilty Pleasures 2, a tribute show to '90s pop, Friday at Le Garage Café.

Last year's event was exclusively girl powered, the two vocalists paying tribute to such all-female acts as Destiny's Child, Spice Girls and All Saints. This time around, Dirks and Sarbit — of Chic Gamine and Imaginary Cities, respectively — will throw a few boy friendly tunes into the mix. "We're branching out. We've got some Blackstreet, some Backstreet Boys, we've got it all," Sarbit says.

"Even guys secretly know the words to Backstreet Boys songs. Plus, guys should come because there's already going to be so many ladies there and they're going to be drunk. But, I don't condone anything past friendly conversation."

Speaking of boys, Dirks and Sarbit will be backed up by Imaginary Cities members Dave Landreth, Alex Campbell and Ryan Voth

Details

Tickets for Guilty Pleasures 2 are \$15 at the door. Showtime is 9:30 p.m.

as well as guitarist Christopher Ulrich. Sarbit says the songs she's best at are one hit wonders like Blackstreet's No Diggity and Natalie Imbruglia's Torn, while Dirks excels at the over-the-top, crazy octave range kind of stuff.

"You know the beginning of Mariah Carey's Dreamlover where she does that insanely high glass-shattering vocal run? Well, Alexa can do that," Sarbit says.

So, seeing the event's called Guilty Pleasures, should we feel shameful for singing along to Baby One More Time or knowing who Nick Carter is?

"You shouldn't have to be embarrassed. Well, actually, sometimes you should," Sarbit says. **JARED STORY/METRO**

Like Festivus, Quinzmas is their own tradition

Last one. Enjoy it while you can as it's not coming back



JARED STORY
winnipeg@metronews.ca

God rest ye, merry gentlemen. Winnipeg pop/rock band Quinzzy presents The Last Quinzmas, their final Christmas concert, Friday at the Burton Cummings Theatre.

The annual event started in 2004 at a neighbourhood bar, moved to the West End Cultural Centre and the Park Theatre for a few years, before hitting the big stage at the Burt last year.

"We want to pull a Seinfeld and end at the height of this thing," said guitarist/vocalist Sandy Taronno, who is joined in Quinzzy by his brother James and cousins Jason and David Pankratz.

"It's become this thing that's bigger than our band, a tradition to a lot of



No more sleeps! The Last Quinzmas goes down tonight at the Burt. CONTRIBUTED

people. We've put so much time and love into it. We don't want it to fizzle out."

The family band recently recorded two last Quinzmas tunes, available at quinzzy.bandcamp.com. In addition to seasonal songs, The Last Quinzmas will feature a horn section, a 30-piece choir, progressive folk band House of Doc and a ton of gags, new and old. Past

Quinzmas have featured robots, operatic Santas, Bing Crosbys, David Bowies and the evil Decemberwolf.

"Christmas is just a jumping off point. None of us really care for Christmas that much, but we do like the absurdity of it," Taronno said. "It's this thrown-together holiday that ostensibly is Christian in nature but is obviously also pagan

and Winter Solstice related. It's all this nonsense just thrown together and I think that's what we like about it most. It's this empty container to put crazy ideas into."

Tickets for The Last Quinzmas are \$29 at the WECC, Ticketmaster, Music Trader and the Winnipeg Folk Festival Music Store. Showtime is 8 p.m.

What's open, what's closed over the holidays

Libraries:

Regular hours unless otherwise noted.
Dec. 24:
Closing at 1 p.m.
Dec. 25, 26 and Jan. 1:
Closed.

Leisure Centres:

Regular hours unless otherwise noted.
Dec 24: Fort Rouge Leisure Centre open 6 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Peguis Trail Health & Fitness Centre open from 6 a.m. to 4 p.m., Magnus Eliason Recreation Centre open from 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., Freight House Recreation Centre open from 10 a.m. to noon.
Dec. 25, 26, and Jan. 1: Closed
Dec. 31: Fort Rouge Leisure Centre open 6 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Peguis Trail Health & Fitness Centre open from 6 a.m. to 4 p.m., Magnus Eliason Recreation Centre open from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., Freight House Recreation Centre open from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Pools:

Regular hours unless otherwise noted.
Dec. 24: All pools will close at noon.
Dec. 25, 26 and Jan. 1: Closed.
Dec. 21: All pools will close at 4 p.m.



What's going on — and what isn't — over the holidays. ELISHA DACEY/METRO

Liquor marts:

Extended shopping hours.
Until Jan. 2: Open daily 8 a.m. until 11 p.m. Sunday shopping hours still apply. Cityplace, Hargrave and Ellice, Main and Pritchard, Airport Liquor Mart Express locations open until 10 p.m.
Dec. 24: Open 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. Closed Christmas and New Year's Day.
Boxing Day: 12 p.m. to 6 p.m.

Civic Offices:

Dec. 24: All civic offices will close at noon.
Dec. 25, 26 and Jan. 1: Closed.

Garbage Pickup and Brady Landfill:

Dec. 25 and Jan. 1 garbage and recycling collection crews will

have the day off. Trash and recyclables normally picked up on Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday will be picked up one day later — collection will take place on the Saturdays in order to catch up. Dec. 25 and Jan. 1: Brady Landfill closed.

NOTE: Christmas trees will NOT be picked up by garbage collectors. Please take trees to a Let's Chip In Depot.

Winnipeg Transit:

Dec. 25 and Jan. 1: Sunday bus schedule in effect.
Dec. 24, 27, 28 and 31: Express routes 25, 41 and 46 will not be in service.

Animal Services:

Animal Services Agency will be open Dec. 24 from 8:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.. It will be closed Dec. 25, Dec. 26, and Jan. 1.

Cemeteries:

Brookside, St. Vital, and Transcona Cemeteries will be open 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. daily.
Dec. 25, Dec. 26 and Jan. 1: Cemetery Office closed.

Winnipeg Parking Authority:

Dec. 24: Closed at noon.
Dec. 25, 26 and Jan. 1: Closed
Dec. 31: Closed at 3:30 p.m.

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Slain teacher protected students from gunman

Sandy Hook shooting.
52-year-old one of six
educators killed in
Newtown massacre

A teacher who authorities said died trying to protect her students in the Connecticut school shooting that left 28 people dead was laid to rest Thursday.

Anne Marie Murphy, 52, was remembered as a teacher who "brought together a community, a nation, a world, now awed by her own life and death," in a eulogy by Timothy Dolan, Archbishop of New York.

Murphy's father, Hugh McGowan, said authorities told him that she died trying to protect her young pupils. Her body was found covering a group of children's bodies as if to shield them, McGowan said.

About 15 people arrived at St. Mary of the Assumption Church in Katonah, N.Y., in a yellow school bus with "Newtown," the name of the Connecticut town where the shooting occurred, written on its side. The church quickly



Mourners exit a church in Katonah, N.Y., after the funeral for Anne Marie Murphy on Thursday. Murphy was killed when Adam Lanza walked into Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown, Conn., Dec. 14, and opened fire.

LINDSAY NIEGELBERG/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

filled and about 100 mourners waited outside.

A Justice Department official said the country's top lawyer, Attorney General Eric Holder, would visit the town Thursday to meet privately with first responders and law-enforcement officials.

At least nine funerals and wakes were held Wednesday

for those who died when 20-year-old gunman Adam Lanza, armed with a military-style assault rifle, broke into Sandy Hook Elementary School and opened fire. He killed six adults and 20 children, all of them six or seven years old.

More tributes were scheduled for Friday and Saturday.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Texas teachers to carry firearms

In the tiny Texas town of Harrold, children and their parents don't give much thought to safety at the community's lone school — mostly because some of the teachers are carrying concealed weapons.

The nearest sheriff's office is 30 minutes away, and people tend to know — and trust — one another. So the school board voted to let teachers

bring guns to school.

"We don't have money for a security guard, but this is a better solution," superintendent David Thweatt said. "A shooter could take out a guard or officer with a visible, holstered weapon, but our teachers have master's degrees, are older and have had extensive training. And their guns are hidden. We can protect our children."

In the awful aftermath of last week's Connecticut elementary school shooting, lawmakers in a growing number of states — including Oklahoma, Missouri, Minnesota, South Dakota and Oregon — have said they will consider laws allowing teachers and school administrators to carry firearms at school.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Wireless industry. Data use fuels revenue growth

Here's my cell number. Call me, maybe? Or maybe not. Cellphone users are doing less calling as they buy more smartphones and use the device for texting, emailing, web surfing, mobile apps, social networking and watching videos.

And it's that surge in data use that Canada's telecom companies — big and small — are banking on as the revenue driver of the future.

"It's no longer just your teenage kids. It's everybody," telecom analyst Brahm Eiley said. "They use their phone the way they would use their PC," he added.

Dan Maitland has an iPhone and hardly uses it for calls. "These are not just phones," said Maitland, 39, who makes software that helps train pilots to be safer at flight simulator company CAE Inc. in Montreal. "They are small computers that have the ability to make a phone call."

Maitland said he uses his

By the numbers

55%

The Convergence Consulting Group expects that about 55 per cent of all cellphone users in Canada will have smartphones by the end of this year. That's expected to increase to 65 per cent by the end of 2013 and go up to 80 per cent by year-end 2016.

iPhone for such things as web searches, apps, accessing files for work and reading. And Maitland is doing exactly what wireless providers expect and want him to do to help increase their data revenues in the years ahead.

Faster wireless networks are also helping drive the increasing use of data by consumers, Eiley added.

Eiley said by the end of this year, data will make up roughly 39 per cent of service revenue, which includes voice and data, for Canada's major wireless providers.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Y kant Canaydians spel? Blame it on the Internet

Disappearing skills.

Digital life is ruining our ability to do basic tasks such as spell properly, recall phone numbers and write by hand

Canadians may be among the world's most prolific Internet users, but it seems all that time online hasn't made us a nation of careful spellers.

Many of us often type "faebook" into Google and rather than correcting the obvious mistake, let the search engine fix it. Monitoring Canadians' search habits would reveal that many, many more consistently type in "faceboo," "faebook" and "fcaebook" — but they know Google will get the point.

Others can't be bothered to tap out even eight characters and have learned that entering just "face" or "fb" will get them exactly the link they're seeking.

Is that lazy or efficient? Should we be thanking Google's engineers for saving us a few seconds or lament that technology is dooming us to intellectual laziness?

It seems hardly anyone can remember phone numbers



A woman types while surfing the Internet in North Vancouver on Wednesday. Our continued reliance on technology means we're no longer very good at undertaking manual, old-fashioned tasks. JONATHAN HAYWARD/THE CANADIAN PRESS

anymore since we started storing them in our mobile phones.

Outside of schools and some workplaces, the practice of putting pen to paper is becoming increasingly rare. To many, scribbling with a pen feels quaint in today's digital age.

Who needs maps and a sense of direction with GPS technology — which is now nearly ubiquitous on smartphones and tablets — to guide the way?

And now voice-recognition

software is exploding in efficiency and popularity, raising the prospect that typing could eventually become another skill that's made redundant by convenient, task-relieving technology.

For Matthew Thomas, 33, it was the signing of a birthday card that made him consider just how infrequent old-fashioned manual tasks like handwriting have become in his typical routine.

"I realized how rarely I'm

Quoted

"When you're typing ... you don't have to think — (and autocorrect) thinks for you. So I was like, 'Wow, I'm really scary now when I don't have Google or spellcheck to help me out.'"

Matthew Thomas, 33

actually ever writing anything by hand and there was like a moment of panic where I felt a little scared because as I was writing I was having a hard time," Thomas said, noting that he felt the need to concentrate more and think about the act of writing compared to the automatic process of typing.

There's no doubt that today's technology is radically altering our day-to-day life and how we function and think, said Martin Hand, an associate professor at Queen's University.

"I would never think of it in terms of, 'Is it good or bad? Is it helping or hurting' or something like that ... but it's almost impossible to achieve anything without some engagement with some software," Hand said. THE CANADIAN PRESS



According to some dairy farmers, eggnog sales help compensate for decreased milk consumption over the holidays. FLICKR/REESCLLOYD

Drink up! Dairy producers depend on eggnog rush to offset sales slump

As you raise a glass of eggnog over the holidays, consider that you're making the season brighter for the country's farmers.

There's typically a decline in milk consumption over the holiday period as people turn to boozy beverages, and some dairy producers say that eggnog sales are key in offsetting that slump.

Andrew Taylor, plant manager at Hewitt's Dairy in Hagersville, Ont. said the operation sees an increase of 10 to 15 per cent in sales — usually lasting from the beginning of December until early January — and that eggnog is the beverage behind the jump.

"Any increase in sales we look forward to, but we plan for it every year," said Taylor.

Quoted

"We rely on (eggnog). Farmers need a consistent market and it helps to maintain that consistency."

Andrew Taylor, plant manager, Hewitt's Dairy in Hagersville, Ont.

"People look forward to it."

"Overall milk sales tend to fall in December as people tend to drink other things, usually an alcoholic beverage, so any-

thing that compensates for that is something that we look forward to," said Taylor.

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MAPLE SYRUP HEIST, RAPTORS BACK ON THE BALL AND A TOP-10 HIT



THE LIST
Mike Benhaim
metronews.ca

1 Say what? South African President Jacob Zuma maintains leadership of the currently-ruling African National Congress party by defeating deputy president Kgalema

Motlanthe with a dubious 75 per cent majority vote. Perhaps it's just that the robocalls had trouble pronouncing the name Kgalema Motlanthe.

2 Slap-happy. Researchers at the University of Pittsburgh have created a sophisticated prosthetic arm that can translate brain signals into the appropriate movements. While a definite boon for the physically challenged, I raise two concerns: You just know some rich guy is eventually going to buy a couple of extra arms for no good reason, and someone having a bad dream will end up slapping the heck out of their bed-partner.

3 Holy crepes. After a huge manhunt, Quebec police have arrested more than a dozen accused assailants in what will one day be known as The Great Maple Syrup Heist of 2012. Officers also recovered important paraphernalia used in the production of maple syrup, and around \$18 million worth of our nation's most delicious natural resource (I believe that's street value). The province has been dealing with controversies over corruption and organized crime, but they'll be damned if they are going to sit by and let citizens endure Christmas with dry, unsavoury pancakes.

4 Bac off. Dollarama has pulled two brands of cleansing wipes from its shelves after tests by CBC News revealed unacceptable levels of bacteria. It's reassuring to know that all of the other products we use to rid our skin of impurities contain "acceptable" levels of bacteria.

5 Kill me maybe? The votes are in, and Carly Rae Jepsen's Call Me Maybe is the song of the year. While I am pleased for our homegirl, after the millionth listen I respectfully request, for the love of God, that someone call this girl already!

6 Fields of dreams. The Toronto Raptors welcomed back Landry Fields, who was cleared by team doctors after undergoing elbow surgery over a month ago. The team is on a four-game winning streak, and Fields is anxious to jump in and get them back to their comfort zone.

7 Winter wonders. Monkeys shopping, eagles snatching babies, cows falling from trucks ... It brings to mind fond memories of something my mother used to say: "If your flying baby cries over a truckload of spilled cows, no one's ever going to buy your sharp-dressed monkey." In fairness, English was not her first language.

8 And the winner is ... Cassadee Pope. Pope is now officially The Voice. Fans voted for The Personality as well, but to me she'll always be The Legs. Congrats Cassadee.

9 My favourite things. This week in 1985, Born in the U.S.A. by Bruce Springsteen surpassed Michael Jackson's Thriller as the second-longest-lasting album on Billboard's American Top 10. It stayed there for 79 weeks.

So what mega-singing sensation was powerful enough to top these two superstars for the honour of being No. 1? At 109 consecutive weeks ... Julie Andrews with The Sound of Music. Of course it was.

Follow The Metro List on
Twitter @TheMetroList



Julie Andrews' The Sound of Music topped Bruce Springsteen's Born in the U.S.A. and Michael Jackson's Thriller on Billboard's Top 10 in 1985. CONTRIBUTED

May your days be merry and bright



MATT YORK/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Christmas circuit

Don't get blinded by the lights

A woman walks along Natal Circle viewing Christmas lights in Gilbert, Ariz., in this photo taken earlier this month.

As Christmas decorations light up across the globe, take these precautions to avoid a holiday mishap.

- **Sparkle without the spark.** Turn off the electricity to the supply outlet before working with outdoor wiring. Unplug light strings before replacing bulbs and check to ensure replacement bulbs match the voltage and wattage of the original. To avoid a shock from damaged wire, use

insulated fasteners rather than metal nails or tacks to hold light strings in place.

- **Stay dry.** Keep electrical connectors for outdoor lights above ground, out of water, and away from metal eavestroughs. Connect outdoor lighting into receptacles protected by weatherproof ground fault circuit interrupters (GFCI). These can provide protection from electric shock by sensing ground leakage and cutting electrical power.
- **Put your faith in the magic of the holidays but don't fall for fakes.** Avoid counterfeit electronic decorations that haven't been certified for safe use. Look for the mark from an accredited certification organization like CSA Group.

NEWS CANADA

Pales in comparison

Neighbour cops out on lights

An Arizona woman who knew she couldn't compete head-on with her neighbour's elaborate Christmas light display is attracting attention for her response.

Using red and green lights, Kristina Green of Maricopa, Ariz., spelled out the word "ditto" and made an arrow pointing toward her neighbour's home.

KNXV-TV reports that Green's display is made of around 600 lights. Her neighbour's setup has about 16,000 colourful lights. Green has created a Facebook page for her "ditto" sign.



The Christmas light competition heats up for some neighbourhoods, while other neighbours go with a "ditto" sign and an arrow. SCREEN GRAB

Last year, a family in Beaverton, Ore., also erected the word "ditto" with an arrow on the side of their own home toward a neighbour's house as part of an online movement.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



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What's next for the Ikea monkey?

40%
WHATEVER HE WANTS, HE'S A CELEB NOW

20%
BACHELOR, STORY BOOK FARM PRIMATE SANCTUARY EDITION

40%
MADE FOR TV MOVIE

Twitter

@_thedylde:

#Winnipeg #DrivingTip Turning left? Get in the farthest right lane till you are 20' from intersection. For right turns, stay in left lane

@gareauwilson:

Was whistled at today as I walked past a Tim's drive thru lineup... in my down-feather coat that goes past my knees LOL Only in #Winnipeg

@jbfletcher13:

My cab driver just got some road

rage directed at his driving. I'm not surprised. #Winnipeg #Unicity

@saprairieprguy:

\$236K has been raised by the #salvationarmy through the kettle campaign in #winnipeg, five days left to reach our goal of \$385K @TSAPrairie

@Rick_City:

@DahliaKurtz I've never been there. Winnipeg jokes are the one time I irrationally insult something I have little knowledge of.



This is 40 sees Paul Rudd and Leslie Mann reprise their roles as the warring couple in Knocked Up. HANDOUT

Reel Guys

RICHARD
CROUSE AND
MARK BRESLIN



This is all too familiar

Biting honesty.
Judd Apatow's latest comedy pleases with its realistic take on life in middle age

Richard: Mark, after writing that synopsis, I feel it necessary to remind everyone that this is a comedy, so mixed into this study of midlife disappointment are some keenly honed and very funny observations. It's a blend of heart and humour, frequently in the same scene, and often in the same sentence. When Pete says to Debbie, "We're like Simon and Garfunkle and you turned me into Garfunkle," it's a funny line, delivered well, but also a loaded one that places his unhappiness front and centre. It's that kind of writing and performance that makes you laugh and cringe at the same time. What did you think?

Mark: It's Apatow's best movie, but not necessarily his

funniest. The comedy comes intermittently in between stretches of a married couple bickering, experiencing a financial meltdown, problems with their kids and their parents. Just like real life. But I'm not sure the very funny comedy bits redeem the rest of the movie's grim and lacerating honesty.

RC: I think Apatow is trying to get that James Brooks magical mix of funny and raw emotion. The ratio might be a bit off here, but his cast — Rudd and Mann — both bring considerable likeability and comic chops, but temper that with resentment and dissatisfaction. Mann is particularly good. A scene with a hockey player who doesn't realize she is married is funny but framed with a kind of vulnerability that elevates Debbie from stock character to believable person.

MB: I found this movie less sentimental than most of Brooks' work, but the cast does make the bitter pill seem a bit sweeter. Not just Rudd and

Mann, but the smaller parts — Albert Brooks and John Lithgow as their respective fathers, Jason Segel as the insufferable personal trainer and Apatow's own daughters as the couple's siblings, all work wonders. And two comic set pieces late in the movie — when most directors would be sprinting to the finish line — one with Charlene Yi, the other with Melissa McCarthy — are comedy gold. Your favourite funny bit?

RC: I loved everything to do with the Graham Parker storyline. As the retro rock act Rudd's character is trying to promote, Parker — who was one of my 1970s real-life punk rock heroes — gamely allows himself to be the butt of a lot of jokes, including my favourite from Chris O'Dowd, who says, "It's hard to watch a band when you know all of them were alive on D Day."

MB: Casting Parker was such an inspired choice! I hope that life will imitate art and people will get interested in his music again. But the

Synopsis

This is 40 takes place in the week between Pete and Debbie's (Paul Rudd and Leslie Mann reprising their roles from Knocked Up) 40th birthdays. Although Debbie lies about how old she is, larger problems include constantly warring kids (Maude and Iris Apatow), an empty bank account made worse by a freeloading father (Albert Brooks), an embezzling employee and relationship doubts triggered by Debbie's loaded question, "If I hadn't gotten pregnant 14 years ago, would we still be together?"

- Richard: ●●●●
- Mark: ●●●●

movie is full of such inspired offbeat picks. That was Tatum O'Neal as the realtor and radio talkshow hero Phil Hendrie who attacks Rudd after the bicycle crash.

From writer/director JUDD APATOW

THIS IS 40



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The bad. Films that brought us to tears in 2012



Tom Cruise in a campy rock musical. Can it get any worse? HANDOUT

There are a lot of ways to qualify a bad film, which led to some entries not making this list. Some films disappoint by wasting talent and prestige, like the *Hobbit*, while others come from such uninspired origins that it seems pointless to complain about them. Then there are these 10, which are just plain bad.

Prometheus

This one might not be as objectively bad as others on the list, but it failed on a much grander scale, taking a beloved science fiction franchise, a talented cast and gorgeous cinematography and creating maddeningly thoughtless dreck. Worst of all, a film that was meant to be a prequel ends instead with a presumptuous setup for a sequel. A note to director Ridley Scott: That's not up to you.

One for the Money

This turkey kicked off the year in January and nearly held the title for year's worst the whole way through. Katherine Heigl's attempt to launch herself a franchise based on Janet Evanovich's books is clumsy, painful and plodding, inspiring contempt from its viewers.

Rock of Ages

The poppy hair metal of the 1980s — already not the most soulful music in the world — has any life drained out of it completely in this painfully campy, overlong and uneven

Rounding out the 10 worst

- American Reunion
- The Raven
- Alex Cross
- Red Dawn
- The Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn — Part 2

trudge down the Sunset Strip. Alec Baldwin and Catherine Zeta-Jones just look embarrassed to be there, and Tom Cruise should be, considering his performance. This movie — storyline and all — was better last year when it was called *Burlesque*.

Savages

Oliver Stone's over-saturated, bombastic drug war fantasy is filled with overwrought melodrama, empty tough-guy posturing and an ending that is beyond frustrating. But the worst aspect of the film can be summed up in three words: Blake Lively narration.

What to Expect When You're Expecting

Basing an ensemble comedy on a pregnancy manual was probably the first mistake. The second was thinking any of the shrill and unsympathetic characters on display are at all entertaining. NED EHRBAR, MW

Metro's 10 must-see films from the past year



NED EHRBAR
Metro World News in Hollywood

This may finally be the year that well-made big-budget studio fare finally gets some respect, a cause championed by the likes of Christopher Nolan. Which is awkward, because we were expecting more from his *Dark Knight Rises*, but he didn't quite stick the landing. If nothing else, 2012 proved to be a delightfully diverse year at the movies. Some runners up for this list include best picture front-runner *Argo*, Michael Haneke's Cannes favourite *Amour* and Quentin Tarantino's *Django Unchained*.

Cloud Atlas

A big, bold, far-reaching tale encompassing six different stories — and six very different visual and genre styles — to explore the enduring power of love and mankind's struggle for freedom. The Wachowskis and co-director Tom Tykwer packed a lot into their 172 minutes, adapting David Mitchell's gorgeous novel into something vital and engrossing.

Zero Dark Thirty

Director Kathryn Bigelow and screenwriter Mark Boal follow up their wins for the *Hurt Locker* with an even better film tracking the decade-long manhunt for Osama Bin Laden, buoyed by a performance by Jessica Chastain that should earn her a best actress Oscar. The film's greatest feat is presenting all of the facts without an ounce of politicization.

The Impossible

This true-life tale of a European family separated during the 2004 tsunami is incredibly manipulative, but it is some of the most artful, effective manipulation ever committed to film,

and for that it deserves respect. It's a harrowing, unflinching look at the struggle for survival that puts viewers through the emotional wringer.

Beasts of the Southern Wild

A startling debut with a six-year-old unknown star (Quvenzhané Wallis) and a look and feel unlike anything seen before, this charming and moving fable is a rare treasure, a visual poem with an equally enduring score co-written by director and co-writer Benh Zeitlin.

Cabin in the Woods

Joss Whedon had one of the year's biggest hits with the *Avengers* — which nearly made this list as well — but his real triumph this year comes in co-writing this sharp and hilarious deconstruction of the horror movie genre. Once the movie's real game is revealed, the film's giddy energy is infectious.

Rust and Bone

Oscar-winner Marion Cotillard turns in another striking and poignant performance as a whale trainer who loses her legs during an accident at work and rediscovers the beauty of life with the help of a down-on-his-luck bruiser of a single father (Matthais Schoenaerts).

Lincoln

Daniel Day-Lewis is of course the main attraction here, seamlessly transforming himself into the 16th president, but he shares the screen with a dizzying array of fantastic supporting performances, the best of which was Tommy Lee Jones, Lee Pace and James Spader.

Keep the Lights On

Writer-director Ira Sachs mines his own romantic past with aching honesty to tell the story of two men trying to love each other and ignore each other's addictions for nearly a decade.



Beasts of the Southern Wild. HANDOUT



Jessica Chastain's performance in Zero Dark Thirty is Oscar worthy. HANDOUT

It's an unflinching portrayal of intimacy.

Anna Karenina

Director Joe Wright and actress Keira Knightley team up for their third literary adaptation — after *Pride and Prejudice* and *Atonement* — with this gorgeous and risky translation of the Russian classic. The staging and style are mesmerizing, and Knightley shines, but the real standout here is Jude Law in a career-redefining turn as the

cuckolded Alexei Karenin.

Skyfall

Sam Mendes leads the James Bond franchise to a new benchmark in quality just in time for its 50th anniversary, imbuing Daniel Craig's 007 with just the right amount of fun and '60s swagger. A delicious turn by Javier Bardem as the villain and Roger Deakins' gorgeous cinematography help elevate it to something even more.

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Action



Django Unchained

Director. Quentin Tarantino

Stars. Jamie Foxx, Christoph Waltz

Whatever you think of Quentin Tarantino, his movies stand out in an industry full of mediocrity. Django Unchained, the filmmaker's homage to the spaghetti western, is certainly no different — casting Jamie Foxx as the titular slave-turned-bounty hunter. Aided by a smooth-talking “dentist” (Waltz), Django strives to save his wife from a plantation owner played by Leonardo DiCaprio. Hypnotic dialogue and Tarantino's sense of retro-style keep Django smartly entertaining, albeit a bit long at 165 minutes. **STEVE GOW**

Action



Jack Reacher

Director. Christopher McQuarrie

Stars. Tom Cruise, Rosamund Pike

Tom Cruise channels the macho swagger of John Wayne and Robert Mitchum in this refreshingly unpretentious, highly entertaining mystery thriller. Cruise plays an ex-military cop who is called in to aid defense lawyer Rosamund Pike in profiling another soldier who has murdered five civilians. Of course there's more to the serpentine case than meets the eye. Jack Reacher gets an extra star for casting cult German director Werner Herzog as a reptilian psychopath. **CHRIS ALEXANDER**

Drama



Cirque du Soleil: Worlds Away

Director. Andrew Adamson

Stars. Erica Linz, Igor Zaripov

The problem with making a Cirque du Soleil movie is that the company's acrobatic shows are more spectacle than the medium of cinema truly allows. And these days, that's saying something. Worlds Away (which is a virtual “greatest hits” from seven Cirque shows) tries to thread a narrative throughout, but even that's lost amongst the thrilling stunts that are still more impressive on stage than in a 3D film. **STEVE GOW**

Musical



Les Misérables

Director. Tom Hooper

Stars. Hugh Jackman, Russell Crowe, Anne Hathaway

Chances are, if you're excited to see Les Misérables, you already know what you're in for. Based on the hugely popular stage play, this brooding musical (there are no dance numbers here, folks) stars Jackman as a reformed thief who adopts the daughter of a prostitute in the years following the French Revolution. There's no denying the grandiosity of staging and the device using actors' live vocals leads to impressive performances, but the windy one-takes are just as wearisome. **STEVE GOW**



Parental Guidance

Parental Guidance, featuring Billy Crystal, Marisa Tomei and Bette Midler opens Christmas Day. Visit metronews.ca/scene to read our review of the film. **HANDOUT PHOTO**

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Looper (14A) Fri-Sun 1:40-4:20-7:10 Mon 1:40-4:20-7 Tue 4:20-7:10 Wed-Thu 1:40-4:20-7-10
Pitch Perfect (PG) Fri-Sun 1:20-4:10-7:40 Mon 1:20-4:10-7 Tue 4:10-7-9:40 Wed-Thu 1:20-4:10-7-9:40
Taken 2 (14A) Fri-Sun 1-3:20-5:30-7:40-10:10 Mon 1-3:20-5:30-7:40 Tue 5:30-7:40-10:10 Wed-Thu 1-3:20-5:30-7:40-10:10

Cinematheque 304-100 Arthur, 204-925-3457 No Films Showing Today (STC) Fri-Thu

City Cinema - Northgate 1399 McPhillips, 204-334-6234

Argo (14A) Fri-Sun 7:10-9:50 Mon 7:10 Tue-Thu 7:10-9:50
Dabang 2 (STC) Fri-Sun 1:40-4:20-7:10-9:50 Mon 2:20-4:20-7:10 Tue 4:20-7:10-9:50 Wed-Thu 1:40-4:20-7:10-9:50 Frankenweenie 3D (G) Fri-Sun 1:30-3:45-5:50-8:10-10:15 Mon 1:30-3:45-5:50 Tue 3:45-5:50-8:10-10:15 Wed-Thu 1:30-3:45-5:50-8:10-10:15
Here Comes the Boom (PG) Fri-Sun 2:20-4:50-7:30-10:20 Mon 2:20-4:50-7:30 Tue 4:50-7:30-10:20 Wed-Thu 2:20-4:50-7:30-10:20
Hotel Transylvania 3D (G) Fri-Sun 12:50-3-5:10-7:20-9:30 Mon 12:50-3-5:10-7:20 Tue 5:10-7:20-9:30 Wed-Thu 12:50-3-5:10-7:20-9:30
Ice Age: Continental Drift 3D (G) Fri-Mon 12:40-2:45-4:50 Tue 4:50 Wed-Thu 12:40-2:45-4:50
Looper (14A) Fri-Sun 1:40-4:20-7:10 Mon 1:40-4:20-7 Tue 4:20-7-10 Wed-Thu 1:40-4:20-7-10
Pitch Perfect (PG) Fri-Sun 1:20-4:10-7:40 Mon 1:20-4:10-7 Tue 4:10-7-9:40 Wed-Thu 1:20-4:10-7-9:40
Taken 2 (14A) Fri-Sun 1-3:20-5:30-7:40-10:10 Mon 1-3:20-5:30-7:40 Tue 5:30-7:40-10:10 Wed-Thu 1-3:20-5:30-7:40-10:10

Famous Players Kildonan Place 1555 Regent Ave W, 204-663-2166

Django Unchained (18A) Tue 3:15-6:45-10:15 Wed-Thu 11:50-3:15-6:45-10:15
The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey 3D (PG) No Passes Fri 3-6:30-10:15 No Passes Sat-Sun 11:30-3-6:30-10:15 No Passes Mon 11:30-3-6:30 No Passes Tue 3-6:30-10:10 No Passes Wed-Thu 11:30-3-6:30-10:10
Jack Reacher (14A) No Passes Fri 4-7-10 No Passes Sat-Sun 1-4-7-10 No Passes Mon 1-4-7 No Passes Tue 4-7-10 No Passes Wed-Thu 1-4-7-10
Les Misérables (14A) No Passes Tue 2:50-6:20-9:45 No Passes Wed-Thu 11:30-2:50-6:20-9:45

Monsters, Inc. 3D (G) Fri 4:55-7:15-9:40 Sat-Sun 12-2:25-4:55-7:15-9:40 Mon 12-2:25-4:55-7:15 Tue 4:55-7:15-9:40 Wed-Thu 12-2:25-4:55-7:15-9:40 Parental Guidance (G) No Passes Tue 3:30-7:20-9:50 No Passes Wed-Thu 12:45-3:30-7:20-9:50
Rise of the Guardians (G) Fri 5:10-7:30-9:50 Sat-Sun 12:15-2:45-5:10-7:30-9:50 Mon 12:15-2:45-5:10-7:30
Skyfall (14A) Fri 3:40-6:45-10 Sat-Sun 12:30-3:40-6:45-10 Mon 12:30-3:40-6:45
The Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn Part 2 (14A) Fri 4:30-7:20-10:10 Sat-Sun 12:45-4:30-7:20-10:10 Mon 12:45-4:30-7:20

Grant Park 8 Cinemas 1120 Grant Ave., 204-453-4084

The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey (PG) Stadium Seating, Dolby Stereo Digital, No Passes Fri 3:45-4-7:25-7:45 Stadium Seating, Dolby Stereo Digital, No Passes Sat-Sun 12-4:20-8 Stadium Seating, Dolby Stereo Digital Mon 12:45-4:30 Stadium Seating, Dolby Stereo Digital Wed-Thu 11:45
The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey 3D (PG) Stadium Seating, Dolby Stereo Digital, No Passes Fri 3:45-4-7:25-7:45 Stadium Seating, Dolby Stereo Digital, No Passes Sat-Sun 12-4:20-8 Stadium Seating, Dolby Stereo Digital Mon 12:45-4:30 Stadium Seating, Dolby Stereo Digital Wed-Thu 11:45
Jack Reacher (14A) Stadium Seating, Dolby Stereo Digital, No Passes Fri 4:05-7:10-10:10 Stadium Seating, Dolby Stereo Digital, No Passes Sat-Sun 12:40-4:05-7:10-10:10 Stadium Seating, Dolby Stereo Digital, No Passes Mon 12:20-3:15-6:10 Stadium Seating, Dolby Stereo Digital, No Passes Tue 6:40-9:45 Stadium Seating, Dolby Stereo Digital, No Passes Wed-Thu 12:05-3:05-6:50-9:50
Life of Pi (PG) Stadium Seating, Dolby Stereo Digital Sat-Sun 12:30 Stadium Seating, Dolby Stereo Digital Mon 11:50 Stadium Seating, Dolby Stereo Digital Wed-Thu 12:20
Life of Pi 3D (PG) Stadium Seating, Dolby Stereo Digital Fri-Sun 3:50-7-10 Stadium Seating, Dolby Stereo Digital Mon 3:05-6:05 Stadium Seating, Dolby Stereo Digital Tue 7-10 Stadium Seating, Dolby Stereo Digital Wed-Thu 3:20-6:55-9:55
Lincoln (PG) Stadium Seating, Dolby Stereo Digital Fri 3:30-6:35-9:40 Stadium Seating, Dolby Stereo Digital Sat-Sun 12:10-3:30-6:35-9:40 Stadium Seating, Dolby Stereo Digital Mon 12:10-3:10-6:15 Stadium Seating, Dolby Stereo Digital Tue 6:35-9:40 Stadium Seating, Dolby Stereo Digital Wed-Thu 12:25-3:35-7-10:05
Les Misérables (14A) Stadium Seating, Dolby Stereo Digital, No Passes Tue 7:30 Stadium Seating, Dolby Stereo Digital, No Passes Wed-Thu 12-3:45-

7:30
Silver Linings Playbook (14A) Stadium Seating, Dolby Stereo Digital, No Passes Tue 6:30-9:30 Stadium Seating, Dolby Stereo Digital, No Passes Wed-Thu 12:10-3:25-6:30-9:35
Skyfall (14A) Stadium Seating, Dolby Stereo Digital Fri 3:35-6:45-9:55 Stadium Seating, Dolby Stereo Digital Sat-Sun 12:20-3:35-6:45-9:55 Stadium Seating, Dolby Stereo Digital Mon 11:55-3-6 Stadium Seating, Dolby Stereo Digital Tue 6-9:15 Stadium Seating, Dolby Stereo Digital Wed-Thu 12:15-3:30-6:45-10
This Is 40 (14A) Stadium Seating, Dolby Stereo Digital, No Passes Fri 3:40-6:50-9:50 Stadium Seating, Dolby Stereo Digital, No Passes Sat-Sun 12:35-3:40-6:50-9:50 Stadium Seating, Dolby Stereo Digital, No Passes Mon 12:15-3:20-6:20 Stadium Seating, Dolby Stereo Digital, No Passes Tue 6:50-9:50 Stadium Seating, Dolby Stereo Digital, No Passes Wed-Thu 12:30-3:40-7:05-10:10

IMAX Theatre at Portage Place Y003-393 Portage Avenue, 204-956-4629

Born to Be Wild 3D (G) Thu 11:10 Coral Reef Adventure (STC) Wed 1 Everest (STC) Sat 2
No Films Showing Today (STC) Tue Santa vs. The Snowman 3D (STC) Fri 11:10 Sat 12-3 Sun-Mon 12 Wed 12 Thu 10
Skyfall: The IMAX Experience (14A) Fri-Sat 6:30-9:15 Sun 1:15-4 Mon 1:15 Wed 2:15-7:15 Thu 1:30-9
To the Arctic 3D (STC) Fri 10 Sat 1 Wed 6 Thu 12:10

Landmark Globe Cinema 393 Portage Ave, 204-943-1583

Anna Karenina (PG) Fri 7-9:45 Sat-Sun 1-3:45-7-9:15 Mon 1-3:45
Django Unchained (18A) Wed 1:15-6:30-10 Thu 6:30-10
Hitchcock (PG) Fri 7:20-9:40 Sat-Sun 1:20-3:40-7:20-9:40 Mon 1:20-3:40 Wed 1:20-3:40-7:20-9:40 Thu 7:20-9:40
Life of Pi (PG) Fri 6:50-9:50 Sat-Sun 1:10-4-6:50-9:50 Mon 1-10-4
Les Misérables (14A) Wed 1-4:15-7:30 Thu 7:30

Landmark Towne Cinema 8 301 Notre Dame Avenue, 204-947-2848

The Guilt Trip (PG) Fri 7:15-9:30 Sat-Sun 1-3:30-7:15-9:30 Mon 3:30 Wed 1-3:30-7:15-9:30 Thu 3:30-7:15-9:30
The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey (PG) Fri 7:30 Sat-Sun 2-7:30 Mon 3 Wed 2-7:30 Thu 3-7:30
The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey 3D (PG) Fri 6:30-10 Sat-Sun 11:30-3-6:30-10 Mon 3 Wed 11:30-3-6:30-10 Thu 3-6:30-10
Jack Reacher (14A) Fri 7-9:45 Sat-Sun 12:45-3:45-7-9:45 Mon 3:45 Wed 12:45-

3:45-7-9:45 Thu 3:45-7-9:45
Killing Them Softly (18A) Fri-Sun 9:30 Life of Pi (PG) Wed 12:45-3:30-7:15-10 Thu 3:30-7:15-10
Monsters, Inc. 3D (G) Fri 7-9:15 Sat-Sun 1-3:15-7-9:15 Mon 3:15 Wed 1-3:15-7-9:15 Thu 3:15-7-9:15
Parental Guidance (G) Wed 1-3:30-7-9:30 Thu 3:30-7-9:30
Red Dawn (STC) Fri-Sun 9:15
Rise of the Guardians (G) Fri 7 Sat-Sun 1-3:15-7 Mon 3:15
This Is 40 (14A) Fri 7-9:45 Sat-Sun 12:45-3:45-7-9:45 Mon 3:45 Wed 12:45-3:45-7-9:45 Thu 3:45-7-9:45
Wreck-It Ralph (G) Fri 7:15 Sat-Sun 12:30-3:15-7:15 Mon 3:15 Wed-Thu 7:15

SilverCity Polo Park 815 St. James Street, 204-774-1001

Django Unchained (18A) Tue-Thu 11:20-3:05-6:50-10:35
Elf (G) Sat 11
The Guilt Trip (PG) No Passes Fri 12:30-3-5:30-8-10:30 No Passes Sat 10:55-12:30-3-5:30-8-10:30 No Passes Sun 12:30-3-5:30-8-10:30 No Passes Mon 12:30-3-5:30-8 No Passes Tue-Thu 12:30-3-5:30-8-10:30
The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey (PG) No Passes Fri-Sun 1:15-2-5-5:45-8:45-9:30 No Passes Mon 1:15-2-5-5:45 No Passes Tue 2-5:45-9:30 No Passes Wed-Thu 1:25-5-8:45
The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey — An IMAX 3D Experience (PG) No Passes Fri-Sun 11:30-3:15-7-10:45 No Passes Mon 11:30-3:15-7 No Passes Tue-Thu 11:30-3:15-7-10:45
The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey 3D (PG) No Passes Fri 2:45-6:30-10:15 No Passes Sat 11-2:45-6:30-10:15 No Passes Sun 12:30-3:15-7-10:45 No Passes Mon 12:30-3:15-7-10:45 No Passes Tue 12:30-3:15-7-10:45 No Passes Wed-Thu 12:30-3:15-7-10:45
Jack Reacher (14A) No Passes Fri 1:45-6:30-10:15 No Passes Sat 11:35-4:45-7:50-11 No Passes Sun 1:45-4:45-7:50-11 No Passes Mon 1:45-4:45-7:50-11 No Passes Tue 1:45-4:45-7:50-11 No Passes Wed-Thu 10:55-1:50-4:50-7:50-11
Life of Pi 3D (PG) Fri-Sat 4:50-7:55-11:05 Sun 4:50-7:45-10:40 Mon 4:50-7:55 Tue-Thu 4:50-7:55-11:05
Lincoln (PG) Fri-Thu 1:30
Les Misérables (14A) No Passes Tue 11:20-2:55-6:45-10:25 No Passes Wed-Thu 11:10-2:55-6:45-10:25
Monsters, Inc. 3D (G) Fri-Sun 11:50-2:20-4:50-7:20-9:50 Mon 11:50-2:20-4:50-7:20-9:50 Wed-Thu 10:50-11:40-2:10-4:45-7:20-9:50
Parental Guidance (G) No Passes Tue 12-2:40-5:20-8:05-10:40 No Passes Wed-Thu 10:55-12-2:40-5:20-8:05-10:40
Rise of the Guardians (G) Fri 12:05-2:35-5:05-7:35-10:05 Sat 11:10-2:35-5:05-7:35-10:05 Sun 12:05-2:35-5:05-7:35-10:05 Mon 12:05-2:35-5:05-7:35

Tue 11:50 Wed-Thu 10:50-11:50
Royal Opera House: The Nutcracker (STC) Sat 12:55
Silver Linings Playbook (14A) Fri-Sun 1:20-4:20-7:20-10:25 Mon 1:20-4:20-7:20 Tue 1:20-4:20-7:20-10:25 Wed-Thu 12:30-3:45-7:05-10:30
Skyfall (14A) Fri-Sun 12:30-3:50-7:10-10:25 Mon 12:30-3:50-7:10-10:25 Wed-Thu 12:30-3:45-7:05-10:30
This Is 40 (14A) No Passes Fri-Sun 1:30-4:35-7:40-10:50 No Passes Mon 1:30-4:35-7:40 No Passes Tue-Thu 1:30-4:35-7:40-10:50
The Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn Part 2 (14A) Fri-Sat 11:35-2:20-5:10-8-10:55 Sun 11:35-2:20-5:10-8-10:40 Mon 11:35-2:20-5:10-8 Tue-Thu 2:20-5:10-8-10:55
Wreck-It Ralph 3D (G) Fri-Tue 11:25 Wed-Thu 10:55

SilverCity St. Vital 110-1225 St Mary's Rd, 204-256-3901

Django Unchained (18A) Tue-Thu 11:25-3:05-6:50-10:35
Elf (G) Sat 11
The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey (PG) No Passes Fri-Sun 2:05-5:50-9:30 No Passes Mon 2:05-5:50 No Passes Tue-Thu 2:05-5:50-9:30
The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey 3D (PG) No Passes Fri-Sun 11:30-3:15-7-10:45 No Passes Mon 11:30-3:15-7 No Passes Tue-Thu 11:30-3:15-7-10:45 No Passes Fri 1:245-6:30-10:15 No Passes Sun 2:45-6:30-10:15 No Passes Mon 2:45-6:30 Jack Reacher (14A) No Passes Fri-Sun 1:50-4:50-7:50-11 No Passes Mon 1:50-4:50-7:50 No Passes Tue 1:50-4:50-7:50-11 No Passes Wed-Thu 10:55-1:50-4:50-7:50-11
Life of Pi 3D (PG) Fri-Sun 1:30-4:30-7:25-10:20 Mon 1:30-4:30-7:25
Les Misérables (14A) No Passes Tue-Thu 11:10-2:55-6:40-10:25
Monsters, Inc. 3D (G) Fri-Sun 11:40-2:10-4:45-7:20-9:50 Mon 11:40-2:10-4:45-7:20 Tue 11:05 Mon 12:15
Parental Guidance (G) No Passes Tue-Thu 12-2:40-5:20-8:05-10:40
Rise of the Guardians (G) Fri 12:20-2:45-5:10-7:35-10:10 Sat 11:15-2:45-5:10-7:35-10:10 Sun 12:20-2:45-5:10-7:35-10:10 Mon-Tue 12:20-2:45-5:10-7:35 Wed-Thu 11-12:20-2:45-5:10-7:35
Royal Opera House: The Nutcracker (STC) Sat 12:55
Skyfall (14A) Fri-Sun 12:50-4:05-7:20-10:35 Mon 12:50-4:05-7:20 Tue-Thu 12:50-4:05-7:20-10:35
This Is 40 (14A) No Passes Fri-Sun 1:30-4:35-7:40-10:50 No Passes Mon 1:30-4:35-7:40 No Passes Tue-Thu 1:30-4:35-7:40-10:50
The Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn Part 2 (14A) Fri 11:40-2:20-5-7:45-10:40 Sat 5-7:45-10:40 Sun 2:20-5-7:45-10:40 Mon 11:40-2:20-5-7:45 Tue-Thu 10:05
Wreck-It Ralph (G) Fri 11:35 Sat 11-11:30 Sun-Mon 11:35 Tue-Thu 11:25



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THE MUSICAL PHENOMENON

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The hardest working man in music

David Guetta. Today's most popular DJ talks about the benefits and drawbacks of the Internet and gives us his ultimate playlist

RICHARD PECKETT
Metro World News

David Guetta, one of the most worked with musicians today, spoke to Metro about working with Will.i.am, the social networking revolution and who are the most talented DJs of today.

How would you describe your relationship with Will.i.am?

He's a friend. We've known each other since I produced I Gotta Feeling and anything that he comes out with is always genius, so I kind of trust him with closed eyes.

What's he like to work with?

He's like a bit of a crazy scientist who has difficulty in only doing one thing at a time.

We just open the mics up and he doesn't write any-



Call him popular, or today's 'it' feature guy, but however you say it, David Guetta is in high demand. HANDOUT

thing — it just comes out of him — and it's impressive to see that. He's a party guy and that's my life.

What do you think of the i.am+ and social networking?

You know, I started organizing raves when I was very young and it was against the law. Radio and TV were not playing our music in France and the only way to have

events and DJ was to keep tight with the people who were from the scene. It was text messages, phone numbers, flyers, stuff like this, you know.

So now of course with technology, it's evolving, but it's the same principle, only it's not just my city, but the world. Literally anything that allows me to share my passion and get closer to the fans is great.

So you think that the Internet and YouTube are a positive for the industry?

Amazing, absolutely. It's made music so democratic because it's cheap to produce music to a professional quality and you can also market it through a laptop. Nowadays, it's about creativity, the music itself and it's not like the head of the record company, the head of a TV channel and the head of a

David Guetta's ultimate NYE playlist

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1 David Guetta ft Taped Rai. Just One Last Time (Extended Mix) (What A Music) | 6 Thomas Gold. MIAO (Fly Eye) |
| 2 Ludacris ft Usher & David Guetta. Rest Of My Life (Extended Mix Edit) (Def Jam) | 7 Daddy's Groove. Turn The Lights Down (David Guetta Re-Work) (Jack Back) |
| 3 Rihanna ft David Guetta. Right Now (Def Jam) | 8 Chuckie & Junxterjack. Make Some Noise (Cr2/Big Beat) |
| 4 Alesso. Clash (Refune) | 9 Tony Romera. Pandor (Protocol) |
| 5 David Guetta & Nicky Romero. Metropolis (Jack Back) | 10 David Guetta ft Ne-Yo & Akon. Play Hard (Edit) (What A Music) |

radio channel are going to sit down over lunch and decide who's the next star.

Do you think that there are more talented DJs today?

I don't think that there are more talented people around now but there are more opportunities for them to expose their ability. Talent is about continual good ideas and a career. It's way more competitive. Everything is so fast. It's easier to rise and also quicker

to fall.

You played to 3 million people last year on Copacabana Beach in Rio de Janeiro. Do you prefer bigger venues?

Not necessarily, I love both. I really love playing Pacha in Ibiza, but now those kind of venues are a little small for me. This New Year, I'm going to play Mamita's Beach, Playa del Carmen in Mexico, which isn't as big but I love Latin and South America.

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The holidays are fun, but may present certain health risks to your pets. For example, plants like mistletoe and holly are poisonous, and poinsettias cause animals stomach upset. Certain dangerous foods are more accessible to pets at this time of year. Turkey bones, chocolate in all forms, and any fatty, rich, or spicy foods should be avoided. A sneaky dog who gets into Christmas dinner might end up needing medical treatment for a painful condition called pancreatitis.

Christmas trees and the presents beneath them can be hazardous too. Cats that ingest tinsel, ribbon, or string can twist their intestines and require

emergency surgery. Strings of lights can be tempting for chewing, and tree-climbing by cats can cause injuries if the tree tips over. Tree-stand water contains secretions which may cause stomach upset to animals that drink it. Be careful also with candles; a wagging tail or swat of a paw can lead to burns and other damage. Anchor candles securely and don't leave them unattended around pets when lit.

Finally, with all the traffic in and out of the house, be sure your pet doesn't escape into the cold, and in case he does, be sure he's wearing a collar with identification tags. For pets overwhelmed by festivities in the home, provide them a quiet room with water and a cozy bed to hide away from all the action.

Keeping safety in mind will ensure happy holidays for the whole family. Tuxedo Animal Hospital wishes you season's greetings and all the best in the new year!



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Will it be boiling-over drama on Downton?

Interview. Downton Abbey's cook weighs in on life on set and gives us a taste of how things may pan out for the Crawley family and their minions in the third season

STEPHEN
ERAMO
scene@metronews.ca

In 2010, a British-American period TV drama called Downton Abbey took the world by storm. Three seasons later, fans still eagerly tune in to watch the latest goings-on in the lives of the aristocratic Crawley family and their servants, all of whom live together in the fictional Yorkshire country estate of Downton Abbey.

Keeping everyone well-fed is Downton's cook, Mrs. Beryl Patmore, played by the lovely and talented Lesley Nicol. Although it was two years ago, she will not soon forget her first time

stepping foot into Downton as Mrs. Patmore.

"I should explain that all my scenes are shot at Ealing Film Studios in London," says Nicol. "The kitchen, the servants' quarters and hall, and the corridors are all sets at Ealing, and then an hour away is Highclere Castle (which plays as Downton Abbey). They shoot all the upstairs scenes there, and because Mrs. Patmore, for legitimate reasons, doesn't stray far from her kitchen, I rarely get to Highclere."

"So for me to film a scene in the library with Hugh Bonneville (the Earl of Grantham) was quite extraordinary, not only because it's such an amazing room and building, but also to watch my character go from the safety of her kitchen to be with her boss, who she hardly knows and is scared of. That was very memorable for me and great fun, too."

A skilled cook who knows her way around a kitchen, Mrs. Patmore can sometimes be a bit

bossy, especially with the younger staff. She means well, though, and Nicol has been able to show viewers that along with other facets of her character.

"What's brilliant about (series creator/executive producer/writer) Julian Fellowes is that he gives you one aspect of a character, and then because of circumstances you see another side," says the actress. "So when, for instance, we find out about Mrs. Patmore's nephew, who was apparently shot for cowardice (in the military), that opens up a whole other seam of her life and reveals a very vulnerable woman."

"Although I can't speak in detail, I can say that in season three, you'll see much more of Mrs. Patmore and Mrs. Hughes (Phyllis Logan) banding together rather than opposed to each other, which was also wonderful to investigate."

DOWNTON ABBEY SEASON THREE PREMIERES JAN. 6 ON MASTERPIECE ON PBS. ALL THREE SEASONS BEGIN AIRING ON VISIONTV ON JAN. 2 AT 9 P.M. ET/6 P.M. PT



Lesley Nicol plays Mrs. Beryl Patmore, Downton's sometimes bossy cook. CARNIVAL FILM & TELEVISION LIMITED 2012 FOR MASTERPIECE



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Life as they knew it, changed for good

Bomb Girls. Meg Tilly talks about her role as a floor supervisor at Ontario's Victory Munitions during WWII, and how female perspectives were forever altered

ANNE
BRODIE
scene@metronews.ca

The Second World War brought Canadian women out of the home and into the workforce. Thousands were employed in an Ontario munitions factory, helping in the war effort, earning their own pay cheques and standing on their own two feet as their men fought overseas. *Bomb Girls*, starting season two Jan. 4 ET/PT at 8 p.m., continues as they navigate life at Victory Munitions and on the home front. Meg Tilly plays Lorna the floor supervisor:

Lorna's a great leader. She's stoic, efficient and level headed. But her home life

is unstable.

That's what I love about her. Everybody has light and dark and joys and sorrows and they're all intermingled. There is no good one or bad one. We finished season one with her pregnant and pregnant women aren't allowed to work on the line. Lorna has always been a by-the-rules person and the whole situation changes her. In season two, because of this, she's not so rigid. She's broken several rules. She did things that were wrong if you're going to go black and white. I think she's got more compassion and sees more shades of grey. That's a shift.

How did the work change women?

It contributed to the feminist movement. All these capable women who were underutilized found themselves out there doing useful things. Usually women would be born in a town, be raised in the town, marry and die in the town. And all of a sudden women made decisions. They came from all over the country to work in the plant. It's really important to show

the change that happened with women. Everything changed, that's what (The Second World War) was to us. The focus is usually on the sacrifices of the men, but now we see the women and how they changed our country and how they effected change. And now I see that time so differently. I think back to my grandparents. I wish they were alive now so I could talk to them about what their experiences were like. People are lucky if they still have people alive who can talk about it. It wasn't that long ago.

What happened to the women after the war?

That was a shock. Those were the dark years, some of them call it. All of a sudden it was over. And the men came home and it was changed. And everyone's trying to pretend it was exactly the way it was before the war and it wasn't. Everyone was dealing with this huge shift and women lost loved ones, fathers, brothers, lovers, husbands and they're dealing with other loss, loss of identity and self. They worked and grew and bloomed and

felt useful for something other than baby rearing and cleaning the house, and then suddenly they had to ask for permission to buy a hat. I remember seeing interviews from this one woman. She said it only takes so long to clean the house. You're working hard, and then it's gone. And the woman said, "Until I had my baby, those were the dark years."

Bomb Girls is topical, with references to events in Oshawa or the possibility of Nazi planes flying over Canada.

I didn't know how close we came to ... I didn't know. The storylines are amazing. I read (Second World War) tweets every day — 3,000 killed in bombing in England and you see photos of the streets and think, "Wow, how is it possible?" I didn't realize the extent of what happened. You read Hitler meets with so and so. Hitler says he's not invading anyone, and then he invades.

There were Nazi prison camps in Canada?

I know. I didn't know that. And that's in the show.



Meg Tilly plays Lorna, the floor supervisor, in Global's *Bomb Girls*. HANDOUT

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Kristen Stewart and Robert Pattinson

Stewart and Pattinson host Christmas party

Kristen Stewart and Robert Pattinson are reportedly getting pretty domestic, even going so far as to host a small Christmas party for their friends, according to Hollywood Life. "Kristen and Rob had a small, intimate Christmas tree decorating party on Sunday. They have a gorgeous tree set

up at Kristen's, where Rob pretty much lives now," a source says. "They are not living with each other, but they are spending plenty of time with each other and they do sleep over often. They are in a really magical place right now despite some lingering trust issues on Rob's side."



Claire Danes

Danes welcomes baby Cyrus

Homeland star Claire Danes and husband Hugh Dancy welcomed their first child, a son, this week, her rep confirms to People magazine. Cyrus Christopher Dancy was born Monday "exactly at 3 p.m.," Dancy

reportedly told friends and family in an email, according to Page Six. "Mother and baby are well, healthy and happy." Danes and Dancy first met filming Evening in 2006 and married in 2009.

METRO DISH

OUR TAKE ON THE WORLD OF CELEBRITIES

The Word



The weirdest celebrity hookups of 2012



THE WORD
Dorothy Robinson
scene@metronews.ca

Rosario Dawson and Danny Boyle

A 22-year age difference hasn't stopped director Danny Boyle and actress Rosario Dawson from "canoodling" all over London, per the brilliant and descriptive London press. The May/December romance apparently bloomed on the set of their new movie Trance. Was it the Olympics' bizarre opening ceremony that took Dawson's heart?

Simon Cowell and Carmen Electra

The rumours are kind of true: "She's not my girlfriend," Cowell, 53, explained when he called in to On Air with Ryan Seacrest yesterday about the rumours between the two stars. "We're people who date." How very "bro" of you, Simon.

Avril Lavigne and Chad Kroeger

To the surprise of most, the singers got engaged this year after quietly dating for six months, Lavigne's rep confirmed to People magazine. "A romantic relationship blossomed as they spent time writing together," the rep says. This will be the Canadian singer's second marriage after splitting from Sum 41 frontman Deryck Whibley in 2009. Kroeger "makes her so happy," a source tells the magazine. "Both of their families could not be more excited."

Bobbi Kristina Brown and her "adopted brother"

It was announced on the reality show, The Housewives: On Our Own that Bobbi Kristina Brown and Nick Gordon, who lived with Whitney Houston from the time he was 12, are indeed engaged. Of course, Gordon was never officially adopted by Houston and he isn't blood-related to Bobbi Kristina, but the pseudo-siblings have referred to each other as "brother" and "sister," which, you know, gives us the willies.



Johnny Depp

She's just not that into you

Newly single Johnny Depp is reportedly hung up on his Rum Diary co-star, Amber Heard.

The only problem is the feeling isn't exactly mutual, according to Radar Online. "Johnny and Amber have been having a lot of fun spending time with one another, but Amber keeps

telling him she's not interested in being with him in a monogamous relationship," a source says.

"She says she feels she's too young for him, but the main factor is Amber prefers dating women over men and has no interest in committing to a guy — even if he is Johnny Depp."

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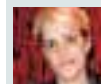
@JuddApatow

Five percent battery left on my iPhone. I shall tweet till it runs out of gas. So nervous about the release of the movie. Sleep? Ha!



@Sethrogen

Normally, talk shows are very scripted. Tonight, Letterman didn't ask me any of the pre determined questions. It was terrifying.



@samantharonson

Thinking about going to some AA meetings to meet some new drivers, I mean friends.



@SethMacFarlane

He's making a list, and checking it twice, and then like five more times 'cause he's got crazy OCD.

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Santa's cookies 2.0

Chocolate Shortbread Melt-Aways



This recipe makes five dozen small cookies. DAN CLAPSON

These cookies have a chocolate intensity that balances with their buttery richness, and when piped onto a baking tray, they look like chocolate kisses. They are a good addition to a holiday cookie tin.

- 1 cup (250 ml) unsalted butter, at room temperature
- 1 cup (250 ml) icing sugar, sifted
- 1 tbsp (15 ml) vanilla extract
- 1 1/2 cups (375 ml) all-purpose flour
- 1/3 cup (80 ml) Dutch process cocoa powder, sifted
- 2 tbsp (30 ml) cornstarch
- 1/2 tsp (2 ml salt)

1. Preheat the oven to 325 F (160 C) and line 2 baking trays with parchment paper.

2. Cream the butter and icing sugar together until smooth. Beat in the vanilla extract.

3. Add the flour, cocoa, cornstarch, and salt, and beat until evenly incorporated.

4. Spoon the soft cookie dough into a piping bag fitted with a large plain tip, and pipe 1-inch (2.5 cm) "kisses" onto the baking trays, leaving a 2-inch (5 cm) space between the cookies.

5. Bake the cookies for 12 to 14 minutes, until they lift away from the parchment paper without sticking. Let the cookies cool completely on the tray before removing. The cookies will keep in an airtight container for up to 3 days. **FROM ANNA OLSON'S BACK TO BAKING**

Holiday baking. As the undisputed queen of sweets, Anna Olson knows a thing or two about delicious treats

DAN CLAPSON
life@metronews.ca

Whether it's gingerbread, yule logs or some shortbread, with the holiday season comes the sweet smell of desserts in the air.

Food Network personality Anna Olson took some time out of her busy baking schedule to chat about what she's whipping up for the holidays. And, no surprise, she is as sweet as sugar!

What's the first memory you have of baking over the holidays?

Making Cherry Walnut Icebox cookies with my grandma.

I still make these cookies each year. It's not Christmas without them.

Do you and your family have any Christmas traditions when it comes to the baking?

My mom and I book a day each year to bake our family recipes as well as make perogies.

Then we go out for dinner to toast our accomplishment — and so we don't have to do any more dishes!

Fruitcake always gets a bad rap. Where do people go wrong with it?

I think people don't think you can alter the fruit and nut combination, but you have a great deal of flexibility.

So long as the total measurement of fruit and nuts is the same, feel free to switch out the candied peel for dried cherries or cranberries, or re-



Anna Olson. SUBMITTED

place the prunes with figs!

Any tips to ensure a sturdy gingerbread house that will stand the test of time and also small hands picking candy off of it?

For a gingerbread house that needs to remain intact for more than a week, then it really shouldn't be made to be eaten. In this case, use vegetable shortening instead of butter in the cookie dough. For an icing that holds up well, use a recipe that calls for meringue powder. It sets up firmly but it's also easy to work with when soft.

A Christmas cookie can take many shapes and forms. What is your go-to variety?

Other than my Grandma's Cherry Walnut cookies, I must have my Toblerone Shortbread onhand the entire month of December.

Your love for baking and sweets is undeniable, but is there one thing you don't like to whip up in your kitchen?

I've never really clicked with rum balls. I always pass them over if they are on a cookie platter and I don't make them at home.

Last, but perhaps most important, do you leave milk and cookies out for Santa on Christmas Eve?

You bet! I need to stay on the nice list!

Liquid Assets

White wines for zombies with Santa hats?



LIQUID ASSETS
Peter Rockwell
@therealwineguy
liquidassets@eastlink.ca

I write this column assuming the world hasn't ended today. If I'm wrong, here are some red wine suggestions to match with turkey for all you roaming hordes of zombies who may or may not have taken over the earth.

One of the wine world's most heinous old wives' tales is that white wines only go with white meats and red wines only go with red meats. If something has to end today, please let it be that thick slice of baloney.

You have to think about more than the star of the meal when it comes to a liquid pairing. Considering all the side dishes means a meal featuring the grand gobbler can cast a wide net catching many red wines.

For some outside the box drinking, think a mid-priced Italian Chianti, a robust Rioja from Spain or a fresh flavoured merlot from California, Australia or Chile.

As a long time pinot-file, I tend to crave a fruit-forward pinot noir when carving. New Zealand knows its way around the grape and

the 2011 Oyster Bay Pinot Noir (\$19.95 - \$24.99) oozes ample very berry fruit that should appeal to all of your table mates, whether alive ... or living dead.

Happy holidays!
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Whether you're hoping to dance, drink or just relax, check out these hot upcoming events.



MIX OF SIX
Meghan Duffy
winnipeg@metronews.ca



Calling all singles

If you are unhitched on NYE — I have found the perfect party for you and your friends to attend. Niakwa Golf and Country Club is hosting a singles party. Let's just hope you can find that special someone before the clock strikes midnight, because no one wants to pretend they are on the phone when everyone else is smooching! Appys will be provided by Provence Bistro, they will also have a sushi station, as well as carved beef and of course lots of champagne to help welcome 2013. Tickets for this event are going fast. For more info, email winnipeg@meetmarketadventures.com.



Rock 'n' roll soul

There are lots of New Year's Eve parties going on, so it's best that you pick one that best suits your mood, objective and style. The Convention Centre's Rock 'n' Soul is probably the biggest party in town on New Year's. This party will have everything from duelling piano players, complimentary appys at the reception, a five-course dinner (with filet mignon and lobster) and all sorts of special performances — with the show-stopper being Ron Paley's Big Band. Go big or go home, right? For tickets, call 204-957-4545. P.S. This party don't stop till 2 a.m.!



New bites on NYE

If you are looking for a culinary adventure, the Velvet Glove is your best bet on New Year's Eve. I can guarantee you will try things you may have never ever eaten before. Gilles Fournier will keep the tunes playing in the lounge while you dive into an eight-course culinary journey created by Velvet Glove chef Tim Palmer. Tickets? Well, they aren't cheap, but if you are a foodie like me, they're worth every penny. Wine pairing is extra, but what the heck — it's New Year's! Dinner starts at 7:30 p.m. and tickets with wine are \$159 per person.



Kickin' it old school

If you're stuck in the '70s or '80s, don't worry, McPhillips Station Casino is throwing a party just for you. This will be a killer dance party though — I can only imagine how many people will go as John Travolta, (or should I say Tony Manero from the 1977 hit Saturday Night Fever?) DJ Barry K will be spinning the old school tracks at this party — so any Bee Gees, David Bowie or Donna Summer requests, go to him!



Ritz & Glitz... and lots of singles

New Year's Eve is just one of those nights no one wants to be alone. The Viscount Gort Hotel throws a huge buffet-style dinner, rockin' dance party (if you're 40 plus) and knows how to throw a great party with all sorts of shooters, party favours and yes — lots of singles ready to get down and mingle to the '80s jingle. Cocktails start at 6 p.m. and the party does not shut down until 2 a.m. So that's eight full hours to find a potential partner ... just sayin'! For tickets, call Robert at 204-489-6237.



NYE — Family style please

Hold the booze please — I have my kids tonight... and am going to The Forks. The Forks is always the go-to place for big events in Winnipeg, and if you want to bring in the New Year with the little ones, this is the place to do it. Kids have all day to skate, toboggan or even snowboard — Shaun White style ... or not! From 5 to 8 p.m. there will be crafts for the kids, horse-drawn wagon rides as well as live entertainment in centre court. You cannot forget the fireworks, which kick off at 10 p.m. If you're looking for more details about this event, call 204-942-6302.

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Tap into these tech gifts

Buzz about smartphones

iPhone 5 — \$699 and up (without contract).



MIKE YAWNEY
For Metro

With processors and features that rival small computers, it's no wonder smartphones have quickly become the high tech gift for the holidays. There are many smartphones to choose from, but which one is right for your loved one? Take a look at our picks to find the perfect one.

iPhone 5 — \$699 and up (without contract)
Featuring an all new design, Apple's latest smartphone is sure to turn heads. The diamond-cut bevelled edges not only look beautiful, they take away the rough edges, giving it an elegant feel. This is the first iPhone to feature LTE, which means you can take advantage of the latest high-speed wireless networks. The Retina display has also been made slightly larger so you get more usable workspace on the screen.

Samsung Galaxy Note 2 — \$729 (without contract)
An ideal smartphone for

those in marketing, advertising or someone with a creative flair. Often referred to as a smartphone/tablet hybrid, the Note II features a large 5.5-inch screen that

can be navigated through touch or a special stylus known as an S Pen. Users can use the pen to sketch or draw on maps, photos or blueprints. The blazing quad-core processor gives this phone performance like no other.

Nokia Lumia 920 — \$549.99 (without contract)
The most advanced Windows phone to date. Sporting wireless

charging and a touch-screen so sensitive you can use it while wearing gloves, the Nokia 920 is sure to be a popular phone this holiday. The 8.7-mega-pixel camera also shoots surprisingly well in low light conditions.

LG Optimus G — \$599 (without contract)
This smartphone has received the title of "Canada's fastest smartphone." Not only is it the first handset to feature Qualcomm's lightning-quick quad-core processor, it's also the first phone to support the 2.600 MHz spectrum, which

is the fastest LTE network in the country. The Optimus G also features a voice-activated camera that will snap photos whenever someone says the word "cheese."

Sony Xperia T — \$549 (no contract, price may vary)
Known simply as "The Bond Phone," the Xperia T is the same smartphone used by 007 himself in Skyfall. This handset features a 13-mega-pixel camera and is Playstation certified, which is perfect for those who enjoy gaming on the go. Music and photos can easily be shared

Mophie Powerstation Pro — \$99
Smartphones are simply paperweights without a fully charged battery. Fortunately, this device will ensure your battery lasts all day and then some. The Powerstation Pro holds enough juice to recharge your smartphone up to four times. It's lightweight, rugged, dust-proof and waterproof so it's perfect for those constantly on the go.

Ballistic Cases — various prices
You spent a fortune on your new smartphone, so why not protect your investment. Ballistic cases are designed to do just that. Ballistic cases have been tested to withstand drops, being run over by vehicles, and Fido's canine teeth. Note: Not a good idea to let your dog use your smartphone as a chew toy.

Clockwise, from left, Nokia Lumia 920 — \$549.99 (without contract), Sony Xperia T — \$549 (no contract, price may vary), LG Optimus G — \$599 (without contract), Ballistic Cases — various prices, Mophie Powerstation Pro — \$99.

Samsung Galaxy Note 2 — \$729 (without contract).



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Get crafty with gift wrapping

SARAH GUNN
YummyMummyClub.ca

Wrapping presents is one of my favourite things to do this time of year. I love the patterns of paper, the ribbons and the bows.

This year, though, I wanted to get a little crafty with my Christmas wrapping so I challenged myself to come up with three different ways to use brown paper.

I discovered that brown paper packages don't just have to be tied up with string — they can be decorated with almost anything. (Yes, The



Sound of Music is my favourite movie of all time).

I mostly used things around the house, but if you don't have a basement full of craft supplies, you can get everything



you need at any craft store.

- Paint your packages in a holiday theme using craft paint.
- Use ribbon, scrapbook paper, and stickers for another look.



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Encounter Calvin Klein Eau de Toilette Spray, \$87 (100ml), \$67 (50ml), available at The Bay, Sears, Murale, Shoppers Drug Mart/Pharmaprix, Jean Coutu, and Sephora.



Fruits & Passion Homme Boxed Fragrance Gift Set, \$35, available at Fruits & Passion, fruits-passion.ca.



Playboy VIP For Him Eau de Toilette, \$22 (50ml), available at Walmart (walmart.ca) and drugstores.



Gillette Fusion ProGlide Styler, \$24.99, available at food, drug and mass merchandise stores across Canada, gillette.com.

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DEC. 28 & 29 10AM-5PM

DEC. 23-26 CLOSED

DEC. 31 10AM-3PM

DEC. 27 (THURSDAY) 10AM-8PM

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TUESDAY, DECEMBER 25

Christmas Day Dinner

TWO SEATINGS:
3:30PM & 6:00PM

Carved Roast Turkey with Stuffing
Cranberry Sauce and Gravy
Sweet & Sour Sauce Meatballs
Mashed Potato
Pierogies with Fried Onions
Honey Glazed Carrots
Tossed Green Salad and Caesar Salad
Potato Salad
Macaroni Salad
Coleslaw
Vegetable Tray / Cheese Tray / Relish Tray
Seafood Tray
Fresh Fruit Tray and Assorted Dessert Table
Dinner Rolls & Butter
Coffee, Decaf, Tea & Pop Included

Adults \$24.95 *Seniors* \$22.95

MONDAY, DECEMBER 31

NEW YEAR'S EVE DINNER

4:00PM & 10:00PM

Your Choice of Appetizers
Shrimp Cocktail
Tomato Ricotta Bruchetta
Choice of Soup
Bison Consomme with Vegetable Garnish
Beer & Cheddar Soup
Choice of Salad
Caesar Salad
Field Green with Almonds, Sundried Cranberries
Your Choice of Entrees
10oz New York Steak with Yorkshire Pudding \$35.95
8oz Filet Mignon with Bordelaise Sauce \$37.95
Camembert Stuffed Chicken, Raspberry Sauce \$34.95
Veal Marsala \$34.95
Grilled Salmon with Champagne Hollandaise Sauce \$34.95
Penne Rigate with Sundried Tomato & Garden Vegetables Rose Sauce \$25.95
All above Entrees come with Asparagus Parmesan and Honey Glazed Julienne Carrots all above Entrees with the exception of the Pasta come with your choice of Starch

Choice of Starch Crown Stuffed Potato Baked Potato Rice Pilaf	Choice of Desserts Caramel Decadence High 5 Orange Blossom New York Cheesecake
--	--

Childrens Menu
Chicken Fingers & Fries \$9.95
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2 LITRES SAGE DRESSING
3 LITRES MIXED VEGETABLES (corn, peas, carrots)
1 LITRE CRANBERRY SAUCE
12 DINNER ROLLS
1 APPLE PIE

TUESDAY, JANUARY 1 2013

NEW YEAR'S DAY DINNER

TWO SEATINGS:
3:30PM & 6:00PM

Carved Roast Beef with Au Jus
Roast Pork Loin
Southern Fried Chicken
Swedish Meatballs
Pierogies with Fried Onions
Scallop Potato
Medley Veggie
Tossed Green Salad and Caesar Salad
Potato / Macaroni / Ham / Cheese Salad
Coleslaw
Vegetable Tray / Cheese Tray / Relish Tray
Seafood Tray
Fresh Fruit Tray and Assorted Dessert Table
Dinner Rolls & Butter
Coffee, Decaf, Tea & Pop Included



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Sonic The Hedgehog Speed Star Vehicle, \$19.99, available at Toys "R" Us, toysrus.ca.

For the little kings



Marvel The Avengers Flip & Attack Transformers, \$14.99, available at Hasbro, hasbro.com/en_CA.



LiteHawk Collector's Edition, \$59.99, available at independent toys and hobby stores across the country and at The Source (thesource.ca).



Set Sails Pirate Ship Playset, \$149.95, available at Indigo, chapters. indigo.ca.

Radio Control Ford F-150, \$159.99, available at Canadian Tire, canadian-tire.ca.



Marvel The Amazing Spider-Man Hero FX Glove, \$19.99, available at Hasbro, hasbro.com/en_CA.

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Philosophy Candy Cane Shampoo, Shower Gel And Bubble Bath, \$21 (480ml), available at select Bay and Shoppers Drug Mart stores.

Christmas Tree Bath Salts, \$5 each, available at Fruits and Passion, fruits-passion.ca.

Red Sparkle Shimmer Lip Gloss, \$14, available at Crabtree & Evelyn, crabtree-evelyn.com.

La Source Hand Care, \$35, available at Crabtree & Evelyn, crabtree-evelyn.com.

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Handy ideas



Stanley Dual Colour Squares, 12-inch (\$11.99), 7-inch (\$7.99), available at Stanley, stanleytools.com.



Dewalt 20 Volt MAX Lithium Ion Jigsaw, \$329.99, available at Dewalt, dewalt.com.



Stanley Pro Black Chrome Socket Set, \$349.99, available at Canadian Tire, canadiantire.ca



A homemade card is a great way for children to express thanks and let people know they care about them.

DYLAN ELLIS/DIGITAL VISION/THINKSTOCK

Compassion. How to teach kids to care for others

Parents can plant seeds of compassion this holiday season by letting their children care for others. There are many ways to nurture empathy this time of year.

- Have kids help out with holiday planning. A parent hosting a party can ask their child how to make it more enjoyable for the guests.

- Give a deeper understanding of how they can make a difference through acts of charity. Kids can also carry their own change to donate to charities collecting money in malls and shopping centres.

- Volunteer as a family — perhaps visit a local homeless shelter, stop by a retirement home, donate food to a local food bank, or serve up a hot meal at a soup kitchen.

- A homemade card is a great way for children to express thanks and let people know they care about them. They can create cards for family, friends or teachers.

NEWS CANADA

Make up for last year's gift.

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Get the good times rolling

Canadian long winter nights are upon us, but that doesn't mean hunkering down to wait out the cold weather.

A cosy gathering with friends will ease the chill when the mercury dips below zero — and there's no shortage of ways to get the good times rolling, it just takes a little creativity. Take a look at these ideas:

Host a theme night

Nothing is cosier than a warm cabin on a cold, snowy night,

so why not recreate one in the comfort of your own home?

Invite friends to sport their coolest retro sweaters and bring their favourite board games. Light a fire (or candles), set out blankets and serve après ski-inspired fare like fondue, sausages and roasted vegetables. Stock your bar with all the staples, as well as a few seasonal surprises giving the nod to winter.

Cosy up with a favourite flick
Who doesn't love movie

night? Re-arrange your furniture in front of the TV, or pile up pillows so everyone can snuggle up.

A few favourite retro movies, nostalgic snacks like buttered popcorn, toffee, and oven-baked s'mores, will ensure you create a night to remember. Then sit back, relax and enjoy the show.

Bring it outside

Let's face it — we're Canadian. We were made for the cold weather, so sometimes outside

is where it's at. Guide guests to the backyard by lining your paths with candles placed in tins. If there's enough snow, build a snowman butler to "serve" your friends munchies and use snow drifts to chill your beverages.

Offer guests blankets and scarves and place a portable backyard fire pit in the centre of the action to keep fingers and toes warm and toasty so the party can go late into the evening.

NEWS CANADA

Home décor. Opportunities are endless

For many Canadians, holiday home décor hinges on one very special tradition: The Christmas tree. Nothing symbolizes the spirit of the season better than spruce, pine or fir branches decked out in lights, ornaments and other festive embellishments.

According to Shelli Gardner, co-founder and CEO of crafting and décor company Stampin' Up!, the beauty of Christmas trees is that no two are alike. People decorating a tree have endless opportunities to get inspired, she says, especially with exciting new trends to watch in 2012.

"From classic decorations that have been passed down for generations, to trendy modern-day ornaments, there are countless ways to put a unique touch on a Christmas tree," Gardner says.

"It all depends on individual taste. I'm a big fan of handmade ornaments, which are becoming more and more popular. They're an exciting and creative way to put a personal touch on your tree this year, whether you're a beginner or a more experienced crafter."

Handmade ornaments created with card stock, ribbon, punches and other accessories can have a definite 'wow' factor, with the added benefit of being truly one-of-a-kind.

NEWS CANADA



A few favourite retro movies, nostalgic snacks like buttered popcorn, toffee, and oven-baked s'mores, will ensure you create a night to remember.

RON NICKEL/DESIGN PICS/THINKSTOCK

Recipe. Mulled Cider Shortbread Bars

Try these delicious cider shortbread bars for guests or the family during the holidays.

Ingredients:

Crust:

- 2 cups all-purpose flour
- ¾ cup cold Gay Lea Unsalted Butter, cut into cubes
- ½ cup instant dissolving sugar
- ½ tsp salt

Filling:

- 6 egg yolks
- 2 cups instant dissolving sugar
- ½ cup all-purpose flour
- 1½ cups apple cider
- 2 tsp finely grated orange zest
- 2 tsp ground cinnamon

- 1 tsp baking powder
- ½ tsp ground nutmeg
- 2 tbsp icing sugar

Instructions:

1 Crust: Preheat the oven to 350 F (180 C). Combine the flour, butter, sugar and salt in a food processor; pulse until crumbly. Firmly press the dough into a 9x13-inch baking pan lined with foil. Bake for 25 minutes or until pale golden around the edges.

2 Filling: Meanwhile, whisk the egg yolks with the sugar and flour until a very thick paste forms. Whisk in the apple cider, orange zest, cinnamon, baking powder and nutmeg until smooth.

3 Reduce the oven temperature to 300 F (150 C). Pour the egg mixture over the hot crust. Bake for 45 to 50 minutes or until just set. Cool to room temperature. Chill for at least 4 hours or until firm. Dust the top with the icing sugar and slice into bars. Makes 32 bars

Tips:

1 Make-ahead: Transfer the bars to an airtight container and store, in the refrigerator, for up to 4 days or in the freezer for up to 1 month.

2 Ingredient source: If apple cider isn't available at the supermarket, use any cold-pressed apple juice.

RECIPE COURTESY GAY LEA FOODS CO-OPERATIVE LTD.



These Mulled Cider Shortbread Bars can be made in advance and stored in the refrigerator for four days. GAY LEA PHOTO

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Nathan MacKinnon, from Sidney Crosby's hometown of Cole Harbour, N.S., is living his dream overseas with a spot on Canada's world junior roster. The youngest player on Team Canada is considered a possible No. 1 pick in the 2013 NHL draft. JEFF MCINTOSH/THE CANADIAN PRESS

MacKinnon dreaming of gold this Christmas

World juniors. Highly touted 17-year-old living dream with chance for glory with Team Canada



PHILIP
CROUCHER
Metro in Halifax

Nathan MacKinnon will wake up Christmas morning far away from the comforts of home.

He'll open his eyes in a Russian hotel room next to a teammate who, like him, is spending the holidays thousands of miles from the family gatherings and traditions he's come to love.

Still, there is no place

Quoted

"It was a cool experience — a world junior game — it was exciting. And I'm sure every game is going to get more and more exciting."

Nathan MacKinnon, on playing for Team Canada in a 3-2 exhibition loss to Finland Thursday

MacKinnon would rather be this holiday season. That's because the 17-year-old Cole Harbour, N.S., standout with the Halifax Mooseheads is fulfilling a dream — one shared by most teenagers who lace up their skates — to play for Canada at the world junior hockey championships.

"It's different, but I'm doing something that I love. I'm having a lot of fun," he said Thursday by phone after playing in Canada's first exhibition

game, a 3-2 loss to Finland. "It would be nice to be home for Christmas, but this is an excellent thing."

MacKinnon, who doesn't turn 18 until September, is the youngest member of Team Canada, but goes into the tournament with plenty of expectations.

A potential first overall pick in next year's NHL draft, MacKinnon will be looked upon to play an important role among 18- and 19-year-olds.

Whatever that role turns out to be, MacKinnon is ready to accept it. With the Mooseheads, he's on the No. 1 line and getting plenty of power-play time. With Team Canada, he could be used as a 13th forward and get the odd shift on special teams.

"I want to help the team and I want to be an impact player," said MacKinnon, who sits third in Quebec Major Junior Hockey League scoring with 22 goals and 30 assists in 30 games. "But I'm going to do whatever role I'm given and hopefully the team can be successful."

MacKinnon is the first Nova Scotian to play at the world juniors for Canada since 2007 and 2008, when Brad Marchand of Hammonds Plains cracked the team.

Exhibition play

'Discipline the subplot' in Canada's loss to Finns

It was an early wake-up call for Canada's world junior team.

Undisciplined and out of sorts, the Canadians dropped an exhibition game to host Finland 3-2 on Thursday. Two of the Finnish goals were scored with a 5-on-3 power play during a game that saw Canada assessed nine minor penalties in total.

"I think the challenge for us obviously is coming together as a team," said Canadian coach Steve Spott. "It's our first game. But ultimately I think discipline is the subplot here tonight, where we have to get used to the standard of officiating and deal with our discipline a lot smarter than we did tonight."

Miro Aaltonen scored the winning goal 7:16 into the third period. Markus Granlund and Ville Jarvelainen had the power-play markers earlier in the game.

Griffin Reinhart and Mark Scheifele replied for Canada with goals 36 seconds apart in the second period while Malcolm Subban finished with 19 saves.

Canada was outshot 22-15 overall and Spott expects to see a better offensive effort when his team faces Sweden in another exhibition game on Saturday.

"I think we've got to create more offence, but that comes from staying out of the penalty box," he said. "That to me is going to be our challenge here."

Canada played without forward Jonathan Huberdeau, who served the final game of a four-game suspension for abusing an official in the QMJHL.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

CFL

Condell follows Austin to Ticats

Tommy Condell is following Kent Austin to the Hamilton Tiger-Cats.

Austin hired Condell as Hamilton's offensive co-ordinator and receivers coach Thursday. The move comes three days after Austin was named the Ticats' head coach, GM and vice-president of football operations.

Condell joins the Ticats after serving as Austin's assistant head coach and wide receivers coach for three seasons at Cornell.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

CFL

Hall of Famer Keys passes away at 89

Canadian Football Hall of Fame inductee Eagle Keys has died at the age of 89.

Keys played centre and linebacker with the Montreal Alouettes (1949-51) and with the Edmonton Eskimos (1952-54), being named to three all-star teams. He became a coach, starting as an assistant in Edmonton in 1955. He was named the Esks' head coach in 1959, a job he held until 1963. Keys also coached the Roughriders (1965-70) and B.C. Lions (1971-75).

THE CANADIAN PRESS



Ivor Wynne reduced to rubble in Hamilton

Construction crews continue to dismantle Ivor Wynne Stadium, the former home of the CFL's Tiger-Cats, on Thursday in Hamilton, Ont. The work is expected to be completed in February. SCOTT GARDNER/THE HAMILTON SPECTATOR

NHL just a shot away from pulling the plug on season

Lockout letdown.

With labour talks at an impasse, cancelling the season may soon be Bettman's only option

The NHL has moved one step closer to calling off another season because of a labour dispute.

Regular-season games through Jan. 14 were wiped off

the schedule on Thursday afternoon, setting up a potential timeline for the league's collective bargaining negotiations with the NHL Players' Association.

It was likely the final batch of games that will be cancelled during the lockout. If commissioner Gary Bettman holds true to his word that the league must play at least a 48-game schedule with playoffs ending in June, the next announcement from the league will

either be a new CBA or a second cancelled season in eight years.

"When it gets to the point where we can't play a season with integrity, with a representative schedule, then we'll be done," Bettman said earlier this month. "If you go back in history, in '94-95 I think we played 48 games. I can't imagine wanting to play fewer than that."

A total of 625 games have been cancelled because of the current lockout, which represents 50.8 per cent of the season.

The all-star game in Columbus has also been axed.

When the NHL staged a 48-game season following the 1994-95 lockout, the CBA was agreed to on Jan. 11 and the puck was dropped on Jan. 20. The regular season ran through May 3 and saw the Stanley Cup awarded on June 24 — thanks to sweeps in four of the last seven playoff series.

The league contemplated the possibility of a 28-game season in 2004-05 before finally

cancelling play on Feb. 16.

There was no statement included with Thursday's announcement of the additional game cancellations.

In an email, deputy commissioner Bill Daly declined to characterize whether Jan. 15 could be viewed as the last date to salvage a shortened schedule.

Talks have been at a standstill since the NHLPA last presented a proposal on Dec. 6 in New York. **THE CANADIAN PRESS**

NHLPA vote

Pushing for a disclaimer

National Hockey League players are expected to be overwhelmingly in favour of an interest of disclaimer when their vote on the motion wraps up Friday.

The players appear to be pushing full ahead for the disclaimer, which would see the players' executive board give the power to Don Fehr and his leadership group to remove themselves from representing the players.

Under that scenario, the union would disband and force a court settlement to end the lockout. But that step has not been finalized yet. **TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE**



Dashing through the snow

Canada's Erin Mielzynski speeds past a pole during the first run of a women's alpine skiing World Cup event on Thursday in Are, Sweden. Seventeen-year-old American Mikaela Shiffrin earned her first career victory, winning a night slalom ahead of Swedish home favourite Frida Hansdotter. Mielzynski, of Guelph, Ont., finished fifth. **GIOVANNI AULETTA/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

NBA. T-Wolves' sharp shooting stops rolling Thunder



Oklahoma City's Reggie Jackson, left, defends against Timberwolves guard Ricky Rubio on Thursday in Minneapolis. **HANNAH FOSLIEN/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

J.J. Barea ended Oklahoma City's 12-game winning streak almost all by himself.

Barea scored 14 of his 18 points in the fourth quarter to lift the Minnesota Timberwolves to a 99-93 victory over the Thunder on Thursday night.

Kevin Love had 28 points, 11 rebounds and seven assists and Nikola Pekovic had 24 points and 10 rebounds for Minnesota.

But it was Barea who was the key, scoring 12 straight at one point for the Wolves

to hold off the team with the best record in the league.

Kevin Durant had 33 points, seven rebounds and six assists for the Thunder, who had not lost a game since Nov. 23 at Boston.

Barea was also a nuisance on defence, drawing an offensive foul on Durant with 2:24 to play.

The normally super-cool Durant uncharacteristically lost his composure, picking up a technical foul for arguing the call as well.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Jabari Parker

High-school hoops star is Duke-bound

Prized prospect Jabari Parker of Chicago's Simeon Career Academy, one of the most highly touted recruits in years, is headed to Duke.

With a national TV audience watching, he announced his decision at a news conference on Thursday. Parker can't sign his letter of intent until April 17, but he made his intentions clear with one highly anticipated oral commitment.

He said his decision

really came down to choosing between three schools, with the Florida Gators and Michigan State Spartans right there with the Blue Devils. In the end, he chose to play for Mike Krzyzewski for at least a year before making what many believe will ultimately be a jump to the NBA.

Parker received the Gatorade Boys Basketball Player of the Year award for Illinois last March after leading Simeon to its third straight state championship while averaging 19.5 points and 8.9 rebounds as a junior.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Horoscopes

♈ Aries

March 21 - April 20

Whatever your age or position, you are about to get the chance to move up in the world. Powerful people will be watching you closely today and over the weekend, so make sure they like what they see.

♉ Taurus

April 21 - May 21

Times are good and about to get even better. It may take two or three days for things to pick up speed but once they do, you will be on a roller coaster ride of fun and games. Hang on and enjoy the experience.

♊ Gemini

May 22 - June 21

Most likely you are reading too much into a situation that is of no real importance but for your own peace of mind, you should investigate further. If someone is trying to take you for a ride — get off quick!

♋ Cancer

June 22 - July 23

You will notice a subtle change in the way other people react to you today. But it is the way that you choose to behave towards them that will determine whether the next few weeks are going to be easy or difficult.

♌ Leo

July 24 - Aug. 23

The Sun's change of signs puts the emphasis on matters of a work nature, and also on your physical health. The two are closely related. In a nutshell: If you work too hard your wellbeing may suffer. Slow down!

♍ Virgo

Aug. 24 - Sept. 23

You don't have to do anything special today: The Sun's change of signs will do it all for you. One of the most active times of the year is about to begin, so prepare yourself mentally for what lies ahead.

♏ Libra

Sept. 24 - Oct. 23

No matter how many interesting things may be taking place in the world, you must focus exclusively on the needs and desires of loved ones today. There has never been a better time to show how much you care.

♏ Scorpio

Oct. 24 - Nov. 22

Keep your options open today because there will be all sorts of new and interesting events taking place and you need to be free to react to any or all of them. Part of the meaning of life is to have fun.

♐ Sagittarius

Nov. 23 - Dec. 21

The past few weeks have been hectic to say the least and the momentum you have built up will keep you going for quite some time. But don't forget you have limits.

♑ Capricorn

Dec. 22 - Jan. 20

You may be eager to get started on a new project but think before you act. Make sure you are well prepared. Any day can be a new beginning. Though, yes, this one is more special than most.

♒ Aquarius

Jan. 21 - Feb. 19

You may be a bit more reclusive than usual today and over the weekend but there is no need to worry about it. You're not withdrawing from the world, you're just getting your thoughts and feelings in order.

♓ Pisces

Feb. 20 - March 20

You seem to be having doubts about something that only a few days ago you thought was the best idea in the world. The good news is your doubts will pass very quickly and then you can get on and make it happen.

SALLY BROMPTON

Crossword

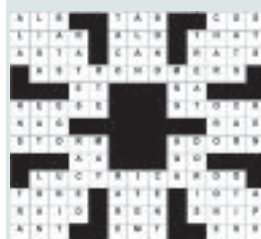
Across

1. Fishing need
4. To and —
7. Catch sight of
11. Silkworm
12. Make tracks
13. Desire
14. Schedule abbr.
15. Sale condition
17. Garfield pal
18. Seafarer's beacon
21. Disco proof of age (abbr.)
22. Select
23. Flintstone pet
25. Before
26. Magnum, P.I.'s pilot buddy
28. School subj.
29. — Acres
31. Cruise setting
32. Emergency room personnel (abbr.)
33. — Lingus
34. Smack a fly
35. Tavern brew
36. "Dirty Harry" actor (init.)
37. Eastern prov.
42. Cloak
43. Fashion magazine
44. Scottish cap
47. Barbra's "Funny Girl" co-star
48. Be indisposed
49. View
50. Hide
51. One of The Three Stooges
52. Family tree member (abbr.)

Down

1. Soak flask
2. Globe
3. Ringing up, old style
4. Flown at the 2012 Olympic games
5. Poison ivy result
6. Exclude

Yesterday's Crossword



What's online

See today's answers
metronews.ca/
answers.



Sudoku

How to play

Fill in the grid, so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved. You solve the puzzle with reasoning and logic.

Yesterday's Sudoku

4	8	7	6	9	2	1	3	5
6	5	3	4	7	1	8	2	9
9	2	1	3	8	5	4	6	7
8	6	5	7	1	4	2	9	3
3	7	9	5	2	8	6	1	4
2	1	4	9	3	6	7	5	8
5	3	8	2	6	7	9	4	1
1	9	6	8	4	3	5	7	2
7	4	2	1	5	9	3	8	6

7		8	9					4
		3			2			1
		1			6	3		
				3		5	8	
	9	6		5				
		9	7			6		
6			8			7		
	2				4	1		5

Weather

TODAY



MAX: -9°
MIN: -19°

SATURDAY



MAX: -9°
MIN: -17°

SUNDAY



MAX: -14°
MIN: -17°



JENNA KHAN
WEATHER SPECIALIST

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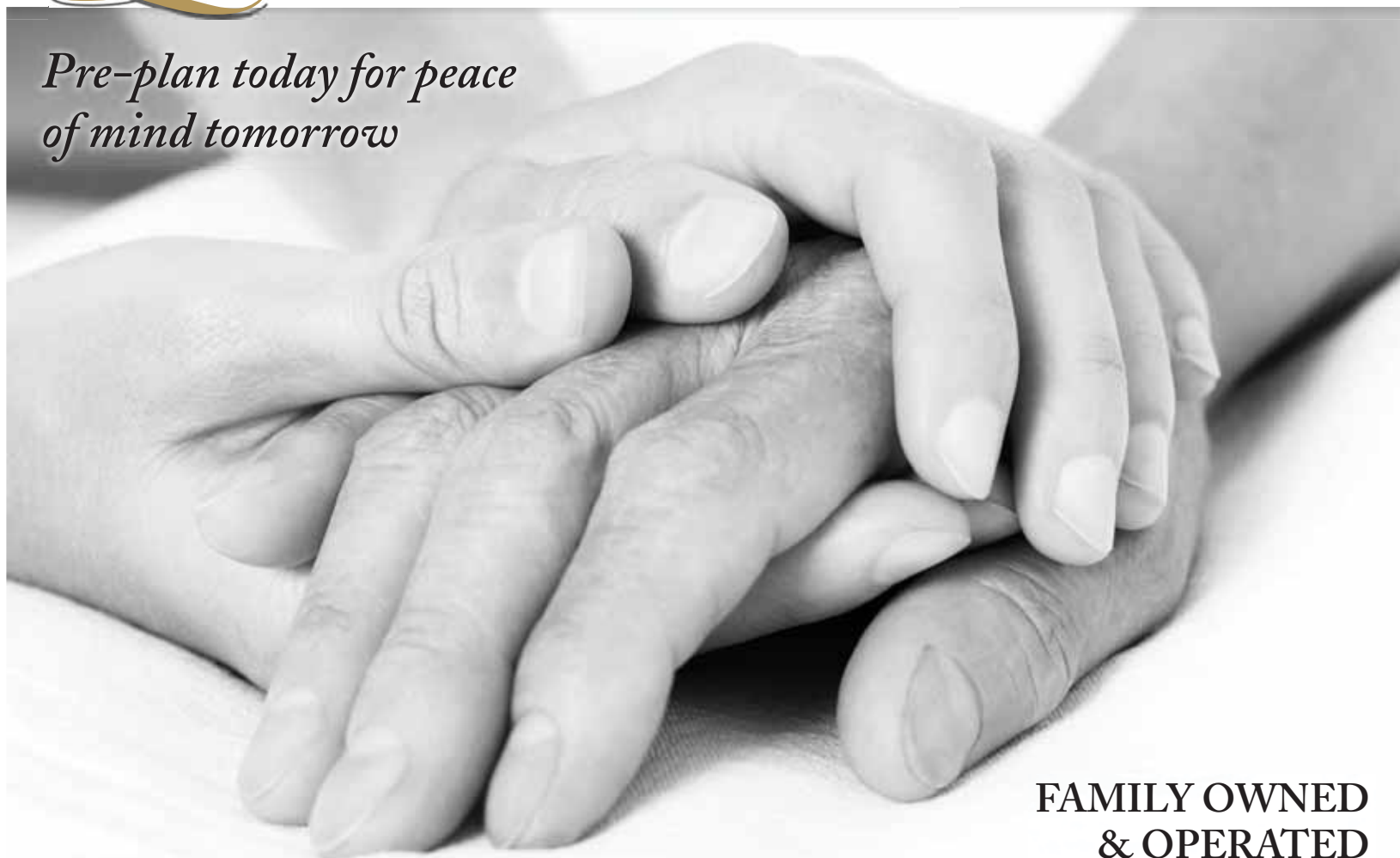
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